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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 73

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think a
180-day delay in
the implementation
of federalization will
help the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

I N S I D E



Art Contest

Aspiring artists from the Northern Mariana Islands will have the chance to showcase their work at the U.S. Capitol.

LOCAL...Page 13



Rock Champ

The Manta Flyerz band, a champion in the rock category at the 5th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, shares its success.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 17

Just Married

David Letterman said he and long-time girlfriend Regina Lasko had a bumpy trip to matrimony last week.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Two girls, man allegedly engaged cops in car chase. **PAGE 2**
BOR: Policy review, legal opinion now unnecessary. **PAGE 3**

60-day furlough eyed for Tinian employees

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian is looking at implementing a two-month furlough for municipal employees if all other austerity measures being considered fail, according to Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas.



San Nicolas

Employees affected by the move will be in non-essential departments and services, he added, saying a furlough is being considered because of the municipality's "very limited" operational budget for the current fiscal year.

Due to a drop in revenues, Tinian expects a shortfall of \$500,000 to \$800,000 for personnel costs this fiscal year.

"Because I hate to terminate people,

See 60-DAY on Page 4

SINCE PASSAGE
OF LAW IN 2006

153 first-time Saipan drivers undergo training

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A law signed in August 2006 resulted in at least 153 first-time drivers on Saipan undergoing a driver's education course for up to \$350 per student.

Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006 requires the completion and passage of a driver's education course as a prerequisite for the

See 153 on Page 4

DHS: Requirements for govt jobs still up to the NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI will continue to have a say on the status requirements needed for employment in government agencies and departments even after the federal takeover of local labor and immigration on June 1.

This was according to Marie Therese Sebrechts, Department of Homeland Security-U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regional media manager, in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

See DHS on Page 4

EPA nears global warming warning

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency has taken the first step on the long road to regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

Politicians and the public, business and industry will have to weigh in along the way,

See EPA on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY

Members of a visiting team from the Connecticut-based Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, SCESA, led by executive director Condencia Brade, second from left, is currently on Saipan to assess the services for victims of sexual assault in the CNMI, with the help of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. In the photo are, from left, coalition vice chair Kiki Igitol, Brade, coalition's Denice Shoemake, 6-year-old Maelyn Tek, SCESA communication specialist Sopheak Tek, and SCESA program coordinator Val Fergus.

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<http://www.epa.gov/>

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Local

Muña nixes giving up control over CUC's cash

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. believes the executive director should continue to individually manage the utility agency's cash, despite a recommendation from the Georgetown Consulting Group that the practice stop.

Removing cash management from the executive director is neither practical nor desirable in the short term, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said in pre-filed testimony before the Public Utilities Commission.

In earlier testimony, the Georgetown Consulting Group said the practice is affecting CUC's ability to reach full cost recovery and accountability.

"The executive director literally on a day-to-day basis makes decisions about what bills get paid or delayed and what projects get authorized or deferred across all three utilities. All cash is co-mingled and payments are made without regard to the source of funds, the purpose of payments, or formal and rational resource allocation protocol. This is not an appropriate way to operate any business, much less water and wastewater utility and we recommend that the [PUC] require that this practice cease with the order in this proceeding," GCG wrote.

However, Muña testified there are at least two reasons he should not be ordered to refrain from managing cash.

"First, such an order would go beyond regulation and inject the commission into day-to-day management of the corporation," he said.

Second, it would be counterproductive, the director said.

"Presently there is simply not enough money coming in to do the many things that CUC must do merely to keep its combined system running. This task, an unwelcome task, is necessary," Muña said, adding that someone with the whole picture of the corporation must make decisions, and make them quickly in certain instances.

CUC looks forward to the day when things can change, but it lacks many of the necessary elements presently, he said. CUC has

hired Deloitte Touche to help fix financial reporting, Muña said.

The utility agency also disagreed with Georgetown's recommendation to cease the commingling of funds between each utility.

It's a matter that CUC will soon have no decision over, Georgetown noted in their testimony, as federal stipulations will require that water and wastewater revenue from any source only be applied to expenses and investments in water and wastewater operations.

But CUC contends any change right now could create a disaster.

"There simply is no money available for the water and wastewater systems, because the rates for these systems are, and have been for 20 years, set way below cost," Muña said in

the testimony. "If we separated the CUC's lines of business right now, the water and wastewater systems would collapse—we would not be able to buy materials, supplies and spare parts, and we would increasingly have to lay off our employees."

Rates

At this point in time, CUC customers can't sustain a 50 percent rate increase for water and wastewater, Muña said, adding that the agency is open to discussions and problem solving.

Georgetown had recommended that PUC set rates at no less than 50 percent of the full cost recovery. For wastewater, the current rate is \$5.50 per 10,000 gallons. This would go up to \$13.44 under a 50 percent provisional rate increase. For water, the current rate is \$25.80

per 10,000 gallons. This would go up to \$43.23 if the provisional rate were set at 50 percent. For water and wastewater combined, customers using 10,000 gallons of each would go from paying \$31.30 to \$56.67.

Perhaps a solution, according to CUC, would be to allow a schedule of predictable step increases.

"We would like to avoid a public response that addresses the frustration of increased rates without an appreciation of the 'good deal' that customers got for years of extremely below-cost rates (albeit with poor service and product quality, which is to be expected from below-cost rates)," Muña said.

The PUC will hold a public hearing Friday at 1pm in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill, where both sides will give their testimony.

Two girls, man allegedly engaged cops in car chase

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A car with three allegedly drunk occupants, including two female minors, was seen traveling at

high speed in Dandan Friday night. When police tried to flag it down, its driver engaged police officers in a high-speed chase.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro

said yesterday that the driver, Dornaine Aguon Pagcu, 22, was detained for driving while under the influence, eluding a police officer, reckless driving, driving without a driver's license, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Ogumoro said the female passengers—14 and 16 years old—were arrested for consuming alcohol and were released to the Division of Youth Services.

The DPS spokesperson said that, on Friday at 8:25pm, as traffic DUI officers were conducting highway enforcement along Monsignor Guerrero Road, they saw a white car traveling at high speed and making unsafe lane changes.

The officers also saw the car, a 1996 Mitsubishi Mirage, recklessly overtaking another vehicle using the opposite travel lane.

The DUI officers activated their emergency signal devices and chased the car that headed toward Dandan.

The car, however, accelerated and tried to elude the officers. The vehicle swerved on the wet roadway, forcing some oncoming vehicles to pull over to the shoulder of Dandan road to avoid a head-on collision.

The chase continued past Dandan Elementary School and in several intersections within the Dandan village. During the pursuit, the car almost rammed one of the houses.

The driver, Pagcu, continued trying to elude the officers and in the process running through traffic stop signs within the village.

As the car came to a screeching halt, the officers observed movement within the car. The officers ordered the three occupants to step out of the vehicle.

Later, another vehicle drove to the scene and the driver informed the officers that Pagcu's car had struck their vehicle earlier.

Annuncio - Arongorong Announcement

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2010 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

SPIL Amendment to Current Goals:

Goal 1) Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement, individuals and systems advocacy;

Goal II) Provide certain independent living core services; the four core services and transportation services to individuals with significant disabilities.

For more information on the VR & SPIL State Plans, please contact:

Margarita R. Olapoi-Taitano
OVR Director

Kaye Christian, SILC Chairperson

Jess Elameto, SRC Chairperson



The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide



Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums on FY 2008–2010 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and to amend the current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?

Community Forum on VR & IL State Plan FY 2008–2010

SAIPAN	ROTA	TINIAN
March 25, 2009 Multi-Purpose Center	March 26, 2009 WIA Office	March 31, 2009 TINIAN Aging Center
State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.	State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.	State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.
State Plan for Independent Living at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.	State Plan for Independent Living at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.	State Plan for Independent Living at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION: If you require special accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at [website & office](http://www.ovr.gov.mp).

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
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BOR: Policy review, legal opinion now unnecessary

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There is no need to review the policy of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents and render a legal opinion on the resignation of Agnes McPhetres following Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's decision to accept the regent's resignation.

"The resignation does not need further review by the legal counsels of NMC," according

to BOR chair Charles Cepeda, who added that Fitial's decision will help the college move on and focus on meeting its accreditation requirements.

Fitial accepted McPhetres' resignation on Monday. She had originally rescinded her resignation but the board said their receipt of her letter effectively ended her service to the board. Last week, the governor told the board that, as far as his office is concerned, McPhetres is

still with the board as he didn't receive nor accepted the regent's resignation letter. Fitial's decision on Monday changed all that.

"We're happy," Cepeda said. "Now, NMC can continue to work on accreditation for the betterment of standards of all levels at the college. This certainly would not have come to a resolution if not for regent McPhetres seeing the need to move on... without further cost and distraction to the institution."

Cepeda said the board is appreciative of the former regent's contributions to NMC.

"Regent McPhetres has also been very active and resourceful as a board member. We thank her for giving so much to NMC, which we know she cares for dearly. Her passion is evident and showed it while a regent," he said, expressing hope that McPhetres' will continue supporting the college as a community member.

"The board continues to thank regent McPhetres for all the services as a board member and the work she has done to improve NMC," he said.

Cepeda also lauded the governor's move to resolve the issue.

"We thank the governor in resolving to the matter and for his continued support to NMC students, staff, and faculty. The governor has given so much support to the members of NMC board and we look forward to

continuing our strong relationship with the governor and his administration," Cepeda added.

Fitial, in a statement Monday, hoped that the question of McPhetres' status with the board has now been clearly resolved.

"I respect her decision and I believe she made this decision with the best interests of the college in mind," the governor said.

McPhetres, who is the first and longest serving NMC president, was appointed to the board last year.

Less than a year into her position, however, she disclosed her disappointment with college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. It was the main reason she cited in her resignation letter.

Reyes: Baka using another loophole in the law

By **KRISTI EATON**
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REPORTER

In light of acting Attorney General Gregory Baka amending contracts, Senate President Pete Reyes said the Legislature would quickly fix a "loophole" in the bill that seeks to clarify the confirmation process of the AG.

Last week, Baka notified all assistant attorneys general and special assistant attorneys general they could be terminated without cause if they did not agree to serve up to 30 days as acting attorney general, if appointed.

The move comes in anticipation of the passage of Senate Bill 16-51, SDI, titled the "Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009." The Senate passed it last week. The House of Representatives must still vote on it.

Reyes, who authored the measure, said by amending contracts Baka is trying to find another loophole around the law.

"We're going to cover that very quickly," the senate president said. "I hope, as the highest law enforcement officer in

the land, they start to practice good ethics and not search for any possible loophole in the law. As a matter of fact, I expect them to report any possible loophole to the Legislature, so we can fix it. It's natural to depend on the AG or acting AG to do that. The gravity of their responsibility dictates that they cooperate with the Legislature and practice good, professional ethics."

In the letter to Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Baka, who has served as acting AG for almost six months, noted the federal time limit for any acting officer is generally 210 days or almost seven months.

Reyes, however, said using a federal law as a model isn't always best for the CNMI.

"We need to design a system and pass legislation that is uniquely related to our own problems. We know what is good for us," he said.

Baka succeeded to the position of acting attorney general on Sept. 28 in the absence of an appointed AG. Under the Commonwealth Code, the governor is required to submit the nomi-

nation to the Senate within 30 days of the person being temporarily appointed. If the Senate does not confirm the appointment of the person holding the

temporary appointed position, the position will terminate.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has not submitted Baka's name to the Senate because, as deputy AG,

Baka succeeded to the position of acting AG, Baka earlier said. He noted that his salary remains that of deputy attorney general, his contractual position.

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Rota mayor's son says evidence obtained through illegal search

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Wilbur Vic Masga Inos, the Rota mayor's son who is facing robbery charges, has asked the federal court to exclude evidence that, according to him, were obtained during an illegal search.

Inos, through lawyer Robert T. Torres, said the entry onto his property by Rota police Sgt. Eusebio Manglona was without probable cause and without a warrant.

The lawyer said the court should suppress and exclude all evidence obtained as a result of

this unlawful entry.

Police arrested Inos about an hour after a robbery at Rota Poker was reported to the Rota Department of Public Safety on Aug. 4, 2008.

Detective George A. Barcinas stated in his report that when interrogated, Inos surrendered the money and explained that he only did it because his son is in critical condition in Guam.

Inos was subsequently indicted in federal court with one count of Hobbs Act robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a

violent crime.

Police said a masked man entered the poker arcade and pointed a rifle at the cashier and demanded money.

Police's investigation led to the recovery of a black AR-15 rifle, its magazine, and three rounds of bullets from a roof of a barracks owned by the mayor.

Inos is facing separate robbery charges in the Superior Court over the same incident. He is the son of Rota Mayor Joseph Inos.

In the motion, Torres said the court should also suppress and exclude custodial interrogation

and statements taken in violation of Inos' Fifth Amendment rights, including advisal of his Miranda rights.

Torres said that because Sgt. Manglona entered private property to which Inos had a legitimate expectation of privacy, the government violated Inos' Fifth Amendment rights.

Moreover, the lawyer said, Manglona's gunpoint interrogation of Inos and 40-minute detention resulting in incriminating statements and additional evidence was neither voluntarily given nor intelligently made.

"The subsequent police station advisal of his Miranda rights was not sufficiently removed in time so as to remove the unlawful taint of constitutional violations," Torres said.

In the U.S. government's opposition to the motion, assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto said the defendant has no standing to challenge the search of the barracks, or alternatively, consented to the search.

Benedetto said there is no indication that Inos lives in or frequent the barracks.

Benedetto also argued that without actual coercion by the

police, Inos' post-Miranda statement is admissible, and would have led to discovery of all the other evidence initially recovered at the scene.

The prosecutor said Inos' post-Miranda interview at the Rota DPS station was not coerced in any way, and yet he voluntarily agreed to waive his rights and spoke with the officers.

"His voluntary waiver of those rights, after being fully informed of them, sufficiently purged the taint of any violation that might have occurred," Benedetto said.

60-DAY

From Page 1

we're looking at a furlough instead. This way, we can help them keep their jobs and they would only be asked to temporarily stop from working for a certain period of time, like two months," San Nicolas said.

At present, the municipality has 139 employees, most

of whom the mayor wants to keep—at least until the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2009.

San Nicolas emphasized, however, that the furlough would only be as a last resort if employees do not agree to alternative austerity measures that may be implemented by his office.

All employees are currently working 80 hours on a biweekly schedule, San Nicolas said. This may go down to as low

as 64, depending on the agreement between the mayor's office and employees.

"We are presently doing a study and evaluation of all the personnel and financial records of the municipality. Our objective is to come up with the best alternative way on how we can survive in this existing economic hardship. If employees agree to 64 work hours or a reduction in their salaries, we may not

consider the furlough," he said.

He conceded that this office has yet to start any austerity measures, much more terminate the contracts of employees.

Employees at the Tinian Health Center, Department of Public Safety, Immigration, and Public Works are considered essential municipal personnel and will not be affected by the possible furlough, San Nicolas said.

An evaluation of each person-

nel's performance is also ongoing at the municipality relative to the austerity plans, he added.

San Nicolas said that he cannot just enforce the furlough on all employees as revenue-generating projects may also be affected by the move.

"We're doing projects to make money. If we will lay off personnel on those important projects, the result will be more chaotic for Tinian and we will prevent that

from happening," he said.

The mayor admitted that Tinian cannot depend solely on the casino and potential casino investors at present, citing the global crisis that contributed to the scaling down of many businesses.

Since 1998, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been the lone casino operator on the island, remitting a portion of its revenue to pay for the salaries of local employees.

DHS

From Page 1

"The decision on what status is required for a CNMI government job will still be up to the CNMI," said Sebrechts.

The issue stems from the potential impact federalization will have on existing employees who have Immediate Relative status and are not able to obtain their U.S. green cards during the transition period.

Based on CNMI law, only U.S. citizen and persons with Immediate Relative status, IRs, can be employed in government agencies like the Public School System, where there are 96 IRs.

The local government is believed to employ a significant number of IRs who are at risk of losing their jobs if they fail to apply for a green card on the prescribed time and through the local law mandating such a requirement.

Federal officials had confirmed that only two categories will be

honored after the transition period: U.S. citizen or immigrants and non-U.S. citizens status.

In an earlier interview, Sebrechts said the USCIS' functions focus solely on immigration issues and status.

She expressed hope for a smooth transition in the CNMI, currently set to begin on June 1, 2009. The law mandating the federal takeover of local immigration provides a possible extension of 180 days. The local government, lawmakers, and

business groups had asked the Department of Homeland Security for a delay.

Sebrechts said the pros and cons for a six-month delay, based on what they had gathered from the islands' various sectors, were presented to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano for a decision. She has yet to make a decision on this.

Board of Education officials earlier said the possible loss of a significant number of IR personnel will impact the operation

of the school system. They encouraged these IR employees to work on their documents now to avert any impact on school operations.

In an interview with some IR personnel at PSS who declined to be identified, they vowed to complete the processing of their applications in order to keep their jobs.

"We have no other choice but to fix our papers...or else we will lose our jobs," one of them said yesterday.

However, many of them expressed hope that, if a significant number of IRs fail to get a permanent resident status, legislators will consider proposing amendments to the local law so these non-U.S. citizen employees may keep their jobs.

USCIS recently opened its Application Support Center in Garapan to help IRs process their papers. Interviews are also being conducted at the facility to help customers save time and money in going to Guam.

153

From Page 1

issuance of an initial driver's license within the CNMI.

The Instructional Support Training Services, which owns and operates the Driver Training Academy, is so far the only private entity providing the driver's education course on Saipan since its initial business license

was granted in 2007.

Richard Puhalla, ISTS-DTA owner/operator, said they have provided classroom and laboratory instruction services to 153 individuals as of February.

Of the 153 individuals, 92 students successfully completed the driver's education course, while 31 are currently enrolled in the laboratory part of the course and 19 are enrolled in the classroom part of the course.

Ten of the students who completed the classroom training have yet to enroll in laboratory training, and one student chose not to finish the laboratory training.

"The overwhelming majority of the students do very well both in the classroom and laboratory curricula...Failure is not an option. Those few individuals who did not finish the class chose to do so for a variety of reasons," Puhalla told *Saipan Tribune*.

Once these individuals pass the driver's education course and present their certificate of completion of the course, they can sit for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles written examination and/or schedule a driving test.

It's not known yet how many of these students who completed the course at DTA obtained a driver's license from BMV.

Puhalla said since the government granted DTA its ini-

tial business license in January 2007, it has worked closely with BMV, "and feedback from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive."

Undergoing the driver's education course at DTA costs \$350, which is the classroom/laboratory instruction package. Those who want to take 30 hours of classroom instruction will only have to pay \$150, while the six hours of labora-

tory instruction cost \$200.

Puhalla has been an educator for 30 years. He is a licensed driver education instructor with teaching and administrative licenses from Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania, plus the Guam and CNMI Public School Systems.

DTA's office is located on the sixth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, and may be reached at 322-2220 or 484-0910.

EPA

From Page 1

but for now a proposed finding by the EPA that global warming is a threat to public health and welfare is under White House review.

The threat declaration would be the first step to regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act and could have broad economic and environmental ramifications. It also would probably spur action by Congress to address climate change more broadly.

The White House acknowledged Monday that the EPA had transmitted its proposed finding on global warming to the Office of Management and Budget, but provided no details. It also cau-

tioned that the Obama administration, which sees responding to climate change a top priority, nevertheless is ready to move cautiously when it comes to actually regulating greenhouse gases, preferring to have Congress act on the matter.

The Supreme Court two years ago directed the EPA to decide whether greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, pose a threat to public health and welfare because they are warming the earth. If such a finding is made, these emissions are required to be regulated under the Clean Air Act, the court said.

"I think this is just the step in that process," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, noting the Supreme Court ruling. Another White House of-

ficial, speaking anonymously in deference to Gibbs, predicted "a long process" before any rules would be expected to be issued on heat-trapping emissions.

But several congressional officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity because the draft declaration had not been made public - said the transmission makes clear the EPA is moving to declare carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases a danger to public health and welfare and views them as ripe for regulation under the Clean Air Act.

Such a finding "will officially end the era of denial on global warming," said Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., whose Energy and Commerce subcommittee is crafting global warming legislation. He said such an endangerment finding is long overdue because

of the Bush administration's refusal to address the issue.

The EPA action "signals that the days of ignoring this pressing issue are over," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., whose Senate committee is working on a climate bill.

Many business leaders argue - as did President George W. Bush - that the Clean Air Act is ill-suited to deal with climate change and that regulating carbon dioxide would hamstring economic growth.

"It will require a huge cascade of (new clean air) permits" and halt a wide array of projects, from building coal plants to highway construction, including many at the heart of President Barack Obama's economic recovery plan, said Bill Kovacs, a vice president for environmen-

tal and technology issues at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Abigail Dillen, an attorney for the environmental advocacy group Earthjustice, which is involved in a number of lawsuits challenging permits for new coal plants, dismissed the dire economic warnings from business groups about carbon dioxide regulation.

"It's to their interest to say the sky is falling, but it's not," she said. "The truth is we've never had to sacrifice air quality to maintain a healthy economy. The EPA has discretion to do this in a reasonable way."

An internal EPA planning document that surfaced recently suggests the agency would like to have a final endangerment finding by mid-April. But officials have made clear actual regulations are

unlikely to come immediately and would involve a lengthy process with public comment.

Gibbs, when asked about the EPA document Monday, emphasized that "the president has made quite clear" that he prefers to have the climate issue addressed by Congress as part of a broad, mandatory limit on heat-trapping emissions.

But environmentalists said the significance of moving forward with the long-delayed endangerment issue should not be understated.

"This is historic news," said Frank O'Donnell, who heads Clean Air Watch, an advocacy group. "It will set the stage for the first-ever national limits on global warming pollution and is likely to help light a fire under Congress to get moving."

Judge rules James Santos presented no new issues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson has denied a motion filed by former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, saying the defendant presented the same arguments that the court had earlier ruled on.

Munson said Santos' motion in limine does not present any new issues or rationale for the court to consider.

"Accordingly, the court finds that the 1998-2000 transaction,

Baseball player is found in contempt

The federal court has found Japanese professional baseball player Kouichi Taniguchi in contempt of court for not appearing at hearings in connection with his lawsuit against Marianas Resort and Spa.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Taniguchi to pay \$100 to the Clerk of Court everyday until he appears in court or complies with the court's order to pay costs.

Munson stated in his order that on Jan. 15, 2009, the court ordered Taniguchi to pay costs.

The judge allowed that the judgment could be paid to either defense counsel Richard W. Pierce or deposited with the court's registry pending appeal.

Taniguchi failed to comply.

On Feb. 17, 2009, Munson ordered Taniguchi to personally appear at the Feb. 27, 2009, hearing for an order to show cause why he should not be held in contempt.

The judge later continued the hearing to last Friday, March 20. Taniguchi, however, still failed to appear in court. His lawyer, Douglas F. Cushnie also did not show up.

Munson said his order to pay costs has not been complied with.

"Accordingly, the court hereby finds plaintiff in contempt of court," he said.

Taniguchi filed the lawsuit in February 2008. He alleged he suffered injuries when the wooden deck he was standing on at Marianas Resort and Spa in Marpi collapsed.

Cushnie stated in the complaint that his client fell several feet to the ground when the deck overlooking the pools and the ocean collapsed under him on Nov. 6, 2006.

Taniguchi asked the court to order Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., owner of Marianas Resort and Spa, to pay him damages.

Taniguchi reportedly played in Japan for the Yomiuri (Tokyo) Giants and in the U.S. for the New York Mets. (Ferdie de la Torre)

and all of the overt acts alleged within that transaction, are not barred by the statute of limitations because the indictment alleges at least one overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy within the limitations period," the judge said.

James Santos, a co-defendant of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez in a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. fraud case, has argued that the "overt act" issue would confuse the jury and would be contrary to law.

Victorino DLG Torres, counsel for Santos, asserted in the motion in limine that it would be confusing to the jury for the prosecutor to argue that the "overt act" that occurred between 1998 to 2000 is a basis for a conviction.

Motion in limine refers to a request submitted by a party in a case to the court before trial in an attempt to exclude evidence from the proceedings.

Torres argued that the U.S. government should be prevented from submitting evidence or referring to any of the defendants' alleged acts that constitute the "1998-2000 transaction."

Torres based the motion on the argument that the 1998-2000 transaction is barred by the five-year statute of limitations.

The prosecution, on the other hand, has argued that there was one ongoing conspiracy—one ongoing agreement that began in 1998 and went dormant for a period and was reactivated in 2007.

In denying the motion, Munson noted that a conspiracy charge is barred by the statute of limitations if no overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy fall within the relevant limitations period.

Munson said the defendants are charged with a single conspiracy beginning in 1998 and continuing through 2008.

The judge said the most recent alleged overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy occurred on Jan. 16, 2008, which is well within the limitations period.

The prosecution alleged that on Jan. 16, 2008, co-defendant Joaquina Santos, wife of James Santos, deposited a CUC Operations Fund check into a Blue Pacific account.

James Santos was the alleged owner and operator of a company

named ISLAS, which supplied CUC with Rydlyme, a descaling chemical. ISLAS was then allegedly reconstituted under a different name, Blue Pacific.

Munson noted that this precise issue in the motion has already come before the court in the original indictment.

Munson said the issue was fully briefed by both sides, the court held a hearing and then ruled on the issue.

The judge said James Santos' argument that every overt act must fall within the statute of limitations misconstrues the law.

Citing a previous court decision, Munson said the court held that it must find at least one overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy within the five-year period.

"The holding emphasizes that the statute of limitations begins to run when the last overt act is committed. Accordingly, all overt acts may be considered by the jury as long as the conspiracy as a whole falls within the limitations period," he added.

The jury trial of Villagomez, James, and Joaquina Santos will begin on Monday, March 30.

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NTT DOCOMO Docomo Pacific unveils Individual Network plan

Is your cellular phone bill wreaking havoc on your budget? NTT DOCOMO Docomo Pacific may just have the solution for you in these trying economic times.

The telecommunications company recently unveiled its INDIVIDUAL NETWORK PLAN where Docomo Pacific subscribers can make and receive unlimited calls from five (5) designated numbers, from any local phone or cell phone carrier between Saipan, Tinian, Rota or Guam, for as low as \$45 per month.

"Docomo Pacific is quite cognizant of the hard economic times the islands are currently experiencing. For all intents and purposes, this new added feature lowers everyone's cellular phone costs as well gives subscribers a choice of what plan best suits their needs," said the company's Business Sales and Marketing Manager, Absalon Waki.

The way it works, according to Waki, is a subscriber can pick up to five (5) frequently dialed numbers as part of his/her IN plan.

"The subscriber can call and receive unlimited calls in a month from any of the five numbers on his/her IN plan for as low as \$45 per month. It's that simple," he added.

The \$45 plan also provides 600 minutes of airtime, plus unlimited local texting, from



NTT Docomo Pacific staff pose inside the telecommunications company's office along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

numbers not included in the IN plan.

Aside from the \$45 plan, Docomo Pacific also has \$65 and \$85 plans, which offers 900 and 1300 minutes of airtime, respectively, from numbers not included in their IN plan. Both plans also include unlimited local texting.

Now, for price-conscious subscribers Docomo Pacific has a mini plan to suit their needs. The \$25 per month plan offers

300 minutes of airtime, unlimited local texting and two (2) unlimited frequent dialed numbers on the IN plan.

Additionally, all above rates include FREE Long Distance to the U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong and China (only airtime charges apply). Other FREE features include voice-mail, caller ID, call waiting, three-way calling, call forwarding and no answer transfer.

Docomo Pacific subscribers can also roam to more than 58 countries and counting.

"We're trying to do everything to lower cellular phone costs for our subscribers. This all starts today and existing Individual plan holders can also avail of the IN plan. They just need come in and sign up with any Docomo Pacific Sales Representative," according to James Lee, Marketing Representative.

Prepaid packages

Waki and Lee said Docomo Pacific's budget-saving plans also extend to its prepaid subscribers as attested by its New Four (4) Unlimited Prepaid Plans.

Plan 1 will take back prepaid users only 50 cents a day and offers unlimited local texting to all local carriers. Plan 2, meanwhile, costs \$1.95 a day and provides unlimited calls to numbers between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

For \$2.50 a day or as low as \$75 per month, prepaid subscribers can get unlimited calls and texting throughout the Marianas, while \$2.95 a day or as low as \$88.50 per month, offers unlimited local calls and texting, as well as data in all four islands.

"These are all tailor-made to the subscribers particular needs. If they are a heavy texter, they can avail of Plan 1. If they call all the time, then Plan 2 is for them. If they both text and use voice, then Plan 3 is for them. Now, if they use all three—text, voice, and data—its Plan 4," he said. All these are catered to those individuals who do want a long term commitment. No contract, no hidden charges, only 'pay as you go,'" said Lee.

Free phones

To top it all off, Docomo Pacific is now offering a FREE PHONE special with only a 12-month agreement and a \$50 security deposit as requirements.

Choose from either a LG 150 or the LG 3300. Features include speakerphone, Bluetooth capable, voice dialing, and up to 500 phonebook capacity.

Waki emphasizes that, "whether you are looking for a postpaid or prepaid option, DOCOMO Pacific has a plan that will fit your needs and budget!" (PR)

FREE

LG 150*

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- Bluetooth
- Voice Dialing
- 500 Phone Book Capacity

LG 3300*

CDMA POSTPAID

- Speakerphone
- Voice Dialing
- 300 Phone Book Capacity

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\$0.50* per day

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- \$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)
- \$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: \$0.002 / KB

Plan 2

\$1.95* per day

FREE Unlimited Local Voice to Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

- Voice: FREE
- SMS: \$0.04 / local SMS to all local carriers
- \$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)
- \$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: \$0.002 / KB

New Unlimited Prepaid Plans!

Plan 3

\$2.50* per day

FREE Unlimited Local Voice and Local SMS to Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

- Voice: FREE
- SMS: FREE local SMS to all local carriers
- \$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)
- \$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: \$0.002 / KB

Plan 4

\$2.95* per day

FREE Unlimited Local Voice, Local SMS, and Local Data on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

- Voice: FREE
- SMS: FREE local SMS to all local carriers
- \$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)
- \$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: FREE UNLIMITED DATA

* There is a 1¢ service charge per 100 calls for unlimited local calls

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Senate to take up smoking ban measure

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate is expected to take up a bill tomorrow that would ban smoking in public places in the Commonwealth.

House Bill 16-47, or “the Smoke-free Air Act of 2008,” would ban smoking in enclosed public places and indoor workplaces must be completely smoke-free. It also bans smoking within 25 feet of doorways, windows, and ventilation intakes. But there are several exemptions. The smoking ban does not apply to bars, private residences, and retail tobacco stores, as well as hotel rooms and private rooms in nursing homes that are desig-

nated as smoking. The House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 15-1 in October. The Senate must pass the measure before it heads to the governor for his signature.

Gov. Benigno Fitial had earlier expressed reluctance to approve the bill, saying such a move could harm the Northern Marianas’ tourism industry. Smoking is common in the Commonwealth’s top tourism markets such as Japan, Korea, and China. However, Fitial has welcomed the decision by some local establishments to go smoke-free.

In American Samoa, Gov. Togiola Tulafono in November vetoed a ban on smoking in all workplaces, which had been

passed days earlier by the territory’s Legislature.

The smoking ban has received broad support from the community. The Department of Public Health called the bill “a stepping stone toward improved health for our CNMI community.” The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition said the measure is “long-awaited and much needed.”

Palauan leaders also expressed their support for the legislation. Palau’s Office of the Council of Chiefs said, “Tobacco use was never part of our Pacific tradition and so legislation to control its use will go toward reinforcing traditional practice-a healthy policy on the part of Pacific people which we embrace.”

For its part, the local business sector has offered a qualified support for the bill. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce backed the smoking ban, but urged lawmakers to adopt certain amendments providing relief to bars and hotels. The business group was successful in getting the bill amended to exempt restaurants with attached bars after regular dining hours.

However, lawmakers rejected the Chamber’s proposals to remove the 20-percent limit on the number of rooms in a hotel where the owners permit smoking, and to remove the prohibition on smoking within 25 feet of an establishment where a ban is in place.



March 25, 1999

Niche markets urged

With the cutthroat competition in the travel industry, the CNMI government must intensify efforts to establish an image of Saipan that will make it unique from other destinations in the Pacific, according to a Japan Airlines official. Tom Shigemitsu, director of JAL’s international passenger marketing and sales department, said the Northern Marianas would need to promote its restaurants and shopping centers since these are important considerations for Japanese in choosing their holiday destinations. Shigemitsu commended the Marianas Visitors Authority for using the mascot “Saipanda” a new character resembling a panda bear with a rhinoceros horn nose, which he believes is effective.

Latest numbers show depth of slump

Renewal of business licenses suffered its worst decline in years, plunging 47 percent to 1,754 in 1998 compared to the previous year, according to statistics from the Department of Commerce that offered another gloomy economic condition in CNMI. Government figures show that new licenses issued during that year slipped 45 to 877 from 922, or a slight decrease of 5 percent, with the biggest drop posted in March at 70, or 53 percent, compared to the same period in 1997. Total number of licenses released by the commerce department at the end of 1998 tumbled 39 percent to 2,854 from 4,653.

March 25, 2002

‘Please give Rota a chance’

Embattled Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona—criticized by some for his support for the Global Country for World Peace, a group that has ties with meditation guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi—spoke in defense of the group’s agenda on the island, saying it is Rota and its people that stand to benefit from the group’s projects. Surrounded by members of the group—all dressed in coats and ties—at the conference room of Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela, who was also present, Manglona told reporters Friday that the group has no suspicious agenda, as it simply aims to promote world peace. At the same time, Manglona said the entire Commonwealth and its economy would benefit much if the group’s proposed projects on Rota materialize. “When Tinian embarked on the casinos to be their industry, a lot of people objected, even when the people of Tinian felt that would be good for them.”

Atalig, Adriano to reject Tenorio nomination

Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said Friday that he and Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano will be rejecting Dr. Joaquin A. Tenorio’s nomination as Labor and Immigration Secretary. Atalig, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said he and Adriano will not support Dr. Tenorio’s nomination due to his failure to fulfill the request of the Rota Legislative Delegation for the construction of a marina in Rota when he was still the Land and Natural Resources secretary. The incident last week involving three foreign nationals who were supposed to attend the Global World Peace conference on Rota but were barred from entering the Commonwealth also has a bearing on the senators’ stance against Dr. Tenorio.

March 25, 2003

US forces within 100 miles of Baghdad

NEAR NAJAF, Iraq (AP)—Driving night and day, more than 70 American tanks and 60 armored troop carriers raced 700 miles across rough desert terrain—a bold flanking movement that placed U.S. forces less than a day’s march from Baghdad on Sunday. The 3rd Infantry division, 2nd Brigade—also known as the Spartans—covered 228 miles in less than 40 hours to take up fighting positions ahead of all U.S. forces, about 100 miles from the Iraqi capital.

Lawyer: Federal charges vs senators violate Covenant

Faced with federal wire fraud charges, Sen. Ricardo Atalig is taking refuge behind the Covenant, accusing federal authorities of violating the Covenant’s provisions on the CNMI’s self-governance, which includes the independence of the Legislature. In a hearing Saturday, former Senate legal counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, on behalf of Atalig, asked the U.S. District Court to dismiss the federal indictment against his client. Atalig and Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz, together with the latter’s daughter Marjorie, are facing 26 criminal counts of wire fraud and a count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The indictment alleged that the two senators entered into a scheme to defraud the CNMI government by providing fictitious jobs in favor of their relatives.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, March 27, 2009 beginning at 6:00 PM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building, Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I. PRELIMINARIES

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II. CONSULTANT’S REPORTS

- Investment Consultant’s Reports
 - o Market Review
 - o Flash Reports - FEB 2009
- Board Consultant’s Reports
 - o Financial Statements - JAN/FEB 2009

III. NEW BUSINESS

- HB 16-4: The CNMI Government and Public Deposit Safety Act of 2008
- Islands Business Opportunities Conference
- AIF

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Vianney B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951
Phone: 1.670.532.7242
Email: rotacommission@gmail.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION’S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2009.

DATE: Friday, 27 March 2009
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission’s Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman’s Report
VI. Old Business

1. Website Development
2. RCGC Funding

VII. New Business

1. Casino Application
2. Printing of RCGC Forms

VIII. Miscellaneous

IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

DIEGO M. SONGAO
Chairman

24 March 2009

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
March 24, 2009
(Amended)

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors’ meeting scheduled on Thursday, March 26, 2009 is postponed until Monday, March 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin’s Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

1. Financial Report-CDA
2. Legal Counsel’s Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES

1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
 - a. Loan and Borrower’s Requests
 - b. Foreclosed Properties – Proposal/Updates
 - c. Loan Receivables’ Report
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. CPA-CDA Loan
3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. SBDC/Business Incubator

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. CDA Board Resolution 2009-001

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-4550 • Fax: (670) 664-4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the “Youth Advisory Council” (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Award Meeting on **Friday, March 27, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., Vista B Conference Room, Palms Resort, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- Review and Adoption of Minutes from YAC Awards meeting on January 30, 2009.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Status on 5% return funding for territories under JJDP Act re-authorization. (FACJJ, NCJA, Rep. Greg Sablan)
- YAC Proposed resolution to the Governor regarding EUDL Awareness Month.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Final review, update, and approval of the 2009 Three Year State Plan submission of the CNMI Title II Formula Grant application.
- Meeting with Juvenile Justice Task Force Members
 1. Review and Update of Task Force MOU
 2. Status and Comments on Passage of Juvenile Justice Act HB 16-178.
 3. Attendance and Participation at MYSN/EUDL Conference
 4. Future Plans of Task Force – Activities

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference set for March 31 – April 1, 2009. Saipan World Resort followed by a Youth Rally April 2 at the Garapan Street Market.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2006-JF-FX-0045, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

Tinian car seat, seatbelt checkpoints

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting car seat and seat-

belt checkpoints for the next three days.

Today, March 25, the first set up

will be held on Broadway Road, next to the Tinian Youth Center on the northbound lane. It will

start at 7am, last approximately 75 minutes and end at 8:15am.

The second setup will be by

Marpo Valley Road, near the Hofschneider warehouse on the eastbound lane. It will start at 4:30pm and end at 5:45pm.

Tomorrow, March 26, the first setup will be held across the Baseball field on the westbound lane. The checkpoint will start at 7am and end at 8:15am.

The second setup will be along Broadway Road by Star Plaza on the southbound lane, from 5pm to 6:15pm.

On Friday, March 27, the first setup will be by the former Tinian

Center on the southbound lane. It will start at 7am, last about 75 minutes and end at 8:15am.

The second setup will be by the Baseball Field on the southbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions.

For more information regarding the car seat and seatbelt checkpoints, contact POIII Wally F. Villagomez at 433-9222/2041. (PR)

Updates on Marianas March Against Cancer

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee said that Northwest Airlines raffle tickets are available for purchase from any MMAC team or committee member for only \$5 each. This is your chance to win a free round trip ticket to Asia or the United States plus other great prizes courtesy of 2009 MMAC Title Sponsor Northwest Airlines—all for only \$5! For more information contact Tara White at tara670@hotmail.com or call 483-8272 or e-mail Reina Camacho at reina-camacho@gmail.com.

The next MMAC team captain's meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 5:30pm. Congratulations to Team's Bodig, Marriage Encounter and Grace Christian Academy for submitting their early bird registration pay-

ments! A reminder to all teams that the deadline for early bird registration is this Friday, March 27, 2009. A \$50 discount will be applied to all teams that submit their payments by this date. Contact Jeannie Mafnas at jeanniemafnas@hotmail.com for more information.

For more information on how you can support the battle against cancer, e-mail Chris A. Concepcion at chrisa-concepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com.

The MMAC is the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, an all-volunteer group that ensures all funds raised are applied locally. The 2009 MMAC will be held from 6pm-6am on May 22-23 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field in Chalan Piao, Saipan. For more informa-

tion on the CCA, e-mail Joanne Ogo at joanne.ogo@gmail.com or call 236-8728.

The next MMAC committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 12pm at

Truong's Restaurant in Susupe, Saipan. All committee members and anyone interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend. Important information will be discussed. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

PUC to hold public hearing on new rates

The Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing this Friday, March 27, 1pm, in the Senate chamber, where the PUC will receive testimony from Georgetown Consulting Group and CUC with regard to dockets 09-1 (LEAC rate) and 09-2 (water and wastewater rates and related issues). Public comments will be welcomed at the conclusion of the hearing.

The downloads/public utilities section of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Web site (www.saipanchamber.com) has been updated to include the prefiled testimony of Tony Muna in docket 09-2 with respect to policy, provisional rate increase, cash management, and other responses to GCG report. (PR)

Musical raises funds for Calvin

The students of Green Meadow School and Keynotes School of Music will be performing in April 4, 2009, in a musical fundraiser titled "Wind Beneath my Wings" for the benefit of Calving Borja, the 16-year-old son of Tina Borja. Calvin has been diagnosed with leukemia and is currently undergoing treatment in Hawaii, which could take up to three years.

The Green Meadow School faculty and staff, along with the GMS PTA, have come together in the effort to support Borja's family in this time of need. "Borja has been a tremendous help to our school not only as an administrative clerk but also as a teacher aide. Her family with three kids, has been struggling with this battle and we hope that this fundraiser will help with their fight," said Edward Arriola Jr., PTA president. (PR)



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Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SINGAPORE	030E	3/14 Sat	3/12 Thu	3/12 Thu	3/10 Tue	3/7 Sat	3/20 Fri	3/16 Mon	3/15 Sun	3/8 Sun	3/8 Sun	3/16 Mon	3/20 Fri	3/22 Sun	3/24 Tue
MELL SENOKO	019E	3/21 Sat	3/19 Thu	3/19 Thu	3/17 Tue	3/14 Sat	3/27 Fri	3/23 Mon	3/22 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/23 Mon	3/27 Fri	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	018E	3/28 Sat	3/26 Thu	3/26 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/21 Sat	4/3 Fri	3/30 Mon	3/29 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/30 Mon	4/3 Fri	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/4 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/2 Thu	3/31 Tue	3/28 Sat	4/10 Fri	4/6 Mon	4/5 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	4/6 Mon	4/10 Fri	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/11 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/9 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/4 Sat	4/17 Fri	4/13 Mon	4/12 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/13 Mon	4/17 Fri	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	019E	4/18 Sat	4/16 Thu	4/16 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/11 Sat	4/24 Fri	4/20 Mon	4/19 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/20 Mon	4/24 Fri	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	030E	3/28 Sat	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue	4/2 Thu	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue	4/10 Fri	4/11 Sat	4/16 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/3 Sun
MELL SENOKO	019E	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Thu	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/17 Fri	4/18 Sat	4/23 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/10 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	018E	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/16 Thu	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue	4/24 Fri	4/25 Sat	4/30 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/17 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Thu	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	5/1 Fri	5/2 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/24 Sun
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	4/30 Thu	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue	5/8 Fri	5/9 Sat	5/14 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/31 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 073Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

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Massoud "Mass" Maduqu returns to Saipan!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Future Saipanpreneur in New York: Massoud Maduqu

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

I recently had the unique experience of hosting a friend of mine on his recent re-visit to Saipan.

Massoud S. Maduqu was born in Accra, Ghana, and has traveled and lived in Africa, Hong Kong, China, Saipan, and now the mainland U.S.

Those of you who frequented Saipan's GIG nightclub from 2005-2006 may remember "Mass" as the club's bouncer on weekends. He was back this week for a six-day escape from New York.

In speaking with Mass over the course of his short return to Saipan, I heard elements of a success story of sorts, details of his eye-opening, mind-changing experience in New York, and the beginnings of what may be a future Saipanpreneur profile! I asked Mass to share some of his thoughts and insights for the benefit of those of us here on Saipan.

What was life like growing up in Ghana?

Mass: Life in Ghana was more of a struggle, especially when it comes to doing business. A lot of foreigners are scared to come to Africa because of what they've heard. There are a lot of misconceptions. So, it's more difficult to encourage people to come here and invest.

My own life was normal. My dad owned a hardware store in Ghana. My mother was a sales agent who traveled to other countries buying and selling products. I have two brothers and two sisters. Things were hard, but we survived.

Where did you go to school?

Mass: I went to Harvard College in KoKomnemne, a suburb in Accra. I majored in accounting and got my GCE (General Certificate of Education) in 1993.

What did you do while in Ghana?

Mass: I was a sales agent for a company that sold handicrafts. Like my mother, I traveled to other countries in Africa to sell the crafts. I've been to Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo.

What brought you to Saipan?

Mass: In 2002, I decided I wanted to live in another country. I left Ghana, passed through Thailand, and finally to Hong Kong. Even though I wanted to live in another country, I wanted to do something that would benefit my people in Ghana. So I decided to buy products to send back to my business partner in Ghana to sell. I lived in Hong Kong for two months.

While in Hong Kong I met some other Ghanaians who were involved

in import and export. There were five of us who decided to explore some other opportunities. One of those friends told me about Saipan. We asked the travel agent about Saipan. We got here in 2002.

Things were hard for us at first, but thanks to people like Anthony Long, Joe Hill, and Willie Brundidge Jr., we found people who helped us survive, and get on our feet. I stayed on for six years. Eventually I got my green card, and decided to see what New York was like to earn money for my family. I left for New York in December 2007.

What do you do in New York now?

Mass: I first started working as a security guard at one company. I've worked at three different companies so far. Now, I'm supervisor of AII Security and Investigation in Bronx, New York. I also drive a taxi when I'm off.

Do you like living in New York?

Mass: No.

Why not?

Mass: Well, I've been in New York for just over a year. In my opinion, people in New York are not friendly. It's overcrowded. Anything that you want to do in New York is more difficult and takes more time. Even to go to the post office to mail a letter, you have to spend 30 minutes in line just to do that! It's more difficult to start a business there because most people are not trustworthy.

You've lived in Africa, Hong Kong, China, Saipan, and now New York. What makes Saipan so different?

Mass: What makes Saipan so different is many things. There is more harmony here on Saipan. People are friendlier. It's easier to get accommodations here on Saipan. It was easier to meet people and make friends when I lived here on Saipan. Living in New York has made me a bit more suspicious of strangers. There's less crime and less scams here on Saipan. In the U.S., people can start a business, put it in the newspaper, advertise it all over the radio and television, and it's actually a scam! That's amazing.

On Saipan, you can go to the store, and leave your car door open. I wouldn't do that in New York. I haven't seen as much crime as I thought there would be, based on TV and movies, but there's still more fear there.

Growing up in Ghana, life was different. When you see someone doing something wrong, or if they're misbehaving, in Ghana, you can say, "Hey don't do that," or "This place is a very clean place, why don't you put your garbage in the trash?" In New York, I would advise you to keep out of people's affairs. If you're a police officer, you can tell people what to do, but in New York, everyone else should mind their own business!

To be fair, what are some of the good things about living in New York?

Mass: Well, there's more buying and selling in New York. So, it's easier to make quick money if you have something to sell. Another

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



good thing about New York is that if you're lost and ask somebody for directions, everyone will help you!

It seems New York is where immigrants love living because they have more freedom, and it's easier to start a business. I've met Caribbeans, Asians, and many Africans who go there to start their own businesses.

How has living in New York changed your perspective on life and business?

Mass: I realize now, more than ever, that I need to start my own business. Better something on the Internet, so I can have the chance to come back to Saipan, or any place I want to be. I can use my accounting background, my sales experience in handicrafts, and my connections in New York and Africa to create a business. Maybe I'll sell products from African craftspeople and do some of the same things I was doing in Ghana, but this time online.

You mentioned coming back to Saipan?

Mass: Walt, when I lived on Saipan, I hadn't realized how much of a paradise it was. After living in New York, I can say this is the most beautiful place to live. This place is beautiful. When I was here, I always thought anyplace else would be better than Saipan. But when I left, I realized things were different. I would encourage people to really appreciate what they have here.

One of the things I wanted to do was go to the beach in New York so my friends and I went to Coney Island Beach. It's like there was oil floating on the water! Saipan's beaches are much nicer.

What advice would you give to others here on Saipan?

Mass: I believe those people who moved away from Saipan will eventually come back. If they're honest with themselves, they'll realize they don't have the same good life that Saipan has.

Even now, I don't want to go back. But, I have to. My job is waiting for me.

■ ■ ■ ■

Thanks for sharing, Mass. Best of success back in New York, and please keep us informed of your future business ventures! I'll give you a little head start:

Note: Anyone wishing to purchase African crafts, or make a busi-

See *FUTURE* on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Players from the House of Horus

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Ladies of Shenyang was the title of a column I wrote a couple of years back, noting the predominance of women from this Northeast China industrial city of Liaoning Province among our garment factory workers as well as the scented ladies of the night.

The Qing dynasty of the Manchus, the last of the Chinese rulers before the nationalist movement, made Shenyang their second capital. During the two-and-a-half centuries they ruled, they built an imperial palace smaller in size but just as equally elegant as the one built in the Forbidden City in Beijing.

Often referred to as the Golden Triangle, Liaoning is the closest region to the Korean Peninsula. With its rich natural resources and the movement of population between Russians (they built Harbin), Japanese (they built Changchun), Koreans, Manchurians and the Hans, Liaoning developed into an industrial-chemical region with Shenyang as its primary city. The port city of Dalian catered to Japanese and Russian ships.

It is, therefore, not a big surprise that a region, given a history of hosting visitors of varying ethnicities, and developing manufacturing complexes out of the Russo-Hangul-Nippon axis, would send to the booming CNMI economy its mama-sans in the hospitality field and its experienced textile workers to the garment factories.

With the Liaoning region's rich traditions of the *xiao lao po* (little wife as title for the Chinese concubine), the dedicated *geisha* (the consummate Japanese entertainer), and her Korean counterpart the *kisaeng*, the nature of the man-woman liaison outside the connubial canopy is more than just a commercial transaction but had deep political, economic and cultural implications.

It would be a mistake, of course, to try to compare the various karaoke bars on Saipan managed by Shenyang ladies to their forebears in bygone days, for what might have been rich in rites and rituals,

symbols and style, studied gestures and stolen glimpses, do not apply to the current setting where the inflated cost of a bottle of beer or a glass of wine, and how fast one can consume either, has become the currency of transaction in our wailing parlors. Backroom transactions for massage services is extra and expected, and/or the offer of a ready bed elsewhere not uncommon, but are nevertheless not the advertised services in the music rooms, though it is understood that it is available to those who so desire to be waited upon.

Eradication of prostitution in Communist China since 1949 was an ideological goal, for prostitutes were thought to enter the business in order to survive. If everyone were cared for, there would not be any need for anyone to enter the profession. The CCP thought they succeeded so well that by 1964, they closed down 29 venereal disease institutes as no longer necessary.

The commerce, however, was widely practiced in urban centers like Shanghai, and the entry of favored and highly desired Russian practitioners into the field may not have been through organized and established efforts, but were known to occur as individual incidences; there were also occurrences of sexual favors tendered to cadre members and officers in exchange for privileges. The corrupting practices sent a few to rehabilitation camps.

Since the loosening of the political grip on the economy by Deng Xiao Ping, the return of pillow-talk among comrades for a monetary price returned. Where rapid urban development occurred in areas like Shenzhen in Guangdong, the provinces around the municipality of Shanghai, and the commercial centers of Tianjin and Wuhan, the commerce in sex flourished as well. Now, even the remote areas of Sichuan and Tibet advertise certain services at appointed rooms.

Let us look at the players on Saipan. Resident walk-ins, survivors, and earnest immigrants who had come to the island for a different purpose but have decided to stake a claim on the geography by all means necessary quickly replaced the original pros from the Philippines, HK, Taipei, Seoul and Shanghai.

Demographics for streetwalkers in Garapan in the late '90s re-

portedly was at 50 percent Chinese. In less than a decade, the Chinese preponderance has become more than 95 percent. While there are still pros that trickle in from Shenyang and Shanghai, and other Asian cities, they have become the rare exceptions. They tend to settle in, along with the original pros, to managing the business.

The walk-ins are just folks who want more income. Unlike their Filipino counterparts who become birds who fly at low altitude (*ibong mababa ang lipad*) because of a heart rending story of misfortune, bad luck and/or someone else's demonic exploitation, the walk-ins carry with them no emotional baggage or moral guilt feelings about commercial sex. They are young and their disciplined approach to the business is like performing a handshake, save that another part of the body is engaged. Sometimes they even have a *nan pangyo* (boyfriend) waiting in the wings while the girlfriend services a customer.

The survivors do worry about "face" and they tend to have an "unfortunate" story that deters them from ever considering returning home but they are resolved to earn enough for mama's new house, the schooling for the child left behind, and the support for the husband who is keeping things together while rehearsing in his mind and public story a martyr of the wife who is sacrificially laboring at a garment factory elsewhere to earn enough for everyone.

The immigrants are looking for a husband, preferably a very mature one, though a merchant marine, a wayward sailor, even an aging teacher willing to be paid will do. Some even have permission from their husbands back home; they have willingly signed away their marriages, just so Ma Lee and her colleagues can marry themselves into a green card. All for the family, we understand.

Human trafficking remains a global issue and how prevalent it is on Saipan has gotten its share of press through the efforts of Sister Laurie and Sr. Stella but their cause notwithstanding, volitional practitioners from the House of Horus are alive and well, and their profession merit consideration for decriminalization. They are here to stay. Tomorrow, we visit where they live and where they play.

Statues

In spite of some pundits', especially Glen and Neil on Fox News, efforts to sweep under the rug the scandals at AIG and the big banks and the big auto companies, the fact remains that there is a lot of arrogant hypocrisy roiling around in the vestibule of big-moneydom these days. We have actually read or heard individuals say that we have to pay these people these big bonuses because it is contractual, or because we need to keep the most talented hands working for us. But, worse than that, worse than all of that, they expect us to believe it! That's arrogance. And that is more than a little irritating.

It used to be that in order to have a statue sculpted in someone's honor he or she had to do something of major significance. By the way, now that I think about it there aren't all that many statues to women—go figure; in fact I can only think of two offhand. Nevertheless, it is less true today than in times gone by that great deeds are so memorialized. Statues have been supplanted in our times by bank statements. Consider...

A millionaire—I mean one who has one million—has enough to guarantee his roof, his food, his health. If that same person has a thousand millions (one billion) he has more than is seemly. So why does he want it? Well, it's his statue to himself. One can drive only so many new cars, eat so many steak dinners, visit so many countries. A billion dollars for one person is obscene. Of course there are

those who actually earn their billions by the sweat of their brow and the money actually just falls on them, e.g., Bill Gates or Walt Disney. But statues—uh—I mean bonuses to those who have brought economic disaster on their company and indeed their country! To expect ordinary folks to worship at the foot of such a statue is arrogance; there is no other word for it. And yet so many do.

Starlets of dubious talent, rock stars that beat up their girlfriends, talking hairdos and their three thousand dollar suits on the TV news all expect you to love them. And, of course pay them. Why should we? They aren't going to pay our bills. Sorry, but to expect such is arrogance gone mad!

But a more basal question lies under the surface. Why are these people so bent on having these statues erected to themselves? Why are they so hell bent on squeezing the common sucker out there out his or her last drachma? I suppose the simple answer is ego, conceit, the game; maybe all of the above.

The socio-economic climate in today's world, and I include our own community, is not good. It is corrupt, it is vainglorious, it is emblematic of a disaster that may already be overtaking us. It is imperative that we educate our young people on values that actually are values. It is important that we start now. And, yes it is everyone's business. If we indeed are going to erect statues to people, whether

By **STEPHEN B. SMITH**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



they be of bronze or marble or of green money, at least let it be for extraordinary exploits and deeds, not because it is included in flawed legalistic crapola called contracts.

A long time ago, a man named Marcus Porcius Cato was walking across the forum in ancient Rome. He was with a fellow senator. The senator was admiring the statues placed there by his fellows in the Roman government. "Cato," said the senator, "I see all of these statues here, yet not one of you. You are famous and well known. Why not?"

Cato stopped, looked over at the man, and said, "My friend, I would much rather one ask me why there is no statue to Cato than why there is one."

FUTURE

From Page 10

ness contact with a Ghanaian in New York, can contact Mass at SaipanMass@gmail.com

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Letters to the Editor

Is this self-governance?

Is this what our leaders meant when they say our right to self-governance?

We continue to ask ourselves what will happen to all those retirees who have been receiving a steady semi-monthly retirement income who are solely dependent on such income? One doesn't need a crystal ball to foresee the dire, indeed tragic, consequences of many pensioners of advanced age when they no longer have the financial security currently provided by the NMI retirement program.

As I see it, the following will surely result: Since the Legislature opted out many years ago from participating in the U.S. Social Security program which provides a financial cushion for millions of Americans by issuing pension checks, this program will not be available to many retirees in the NMI.

I believe most of you know why our local politicians opted out in favor of their own NMI retirement program over which they could exercise total influence—something they could not do with a federal program. We now see the result and many will suffer.

The average monthly U.S. Social Security check paid in

2004 to recipients was \$1,076 for men and \$826 for women. Compare that to zero from a soon-to-be-bankrupt NMI Retirement Fund. Of course, this amount varies depending upon the amount paid in—but there is a basic minimum amount paid to all. When the Fund goes broke in three to five years (less than three years by my estimate), current low group insurance rates (both life and supplemental medical & health) will probably no longer be available to retirees and to those currently paying into the Fund but not yet retired, even if the older retirees with an existing medical condition are able to purchase coverage at any cost, which is extremely doubtful. The government has apparently not considered this issue.

Again, whether you agree or disagree, this is inevitable and as real as it gets. It's unfortunate that our leaders including the present continue to state that these were inherited problems. The truth is Gov. Benigno Fitial inherited his own creation, for he is from the past, a House member and speaker.






Gregorio Cruz Jr.

Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

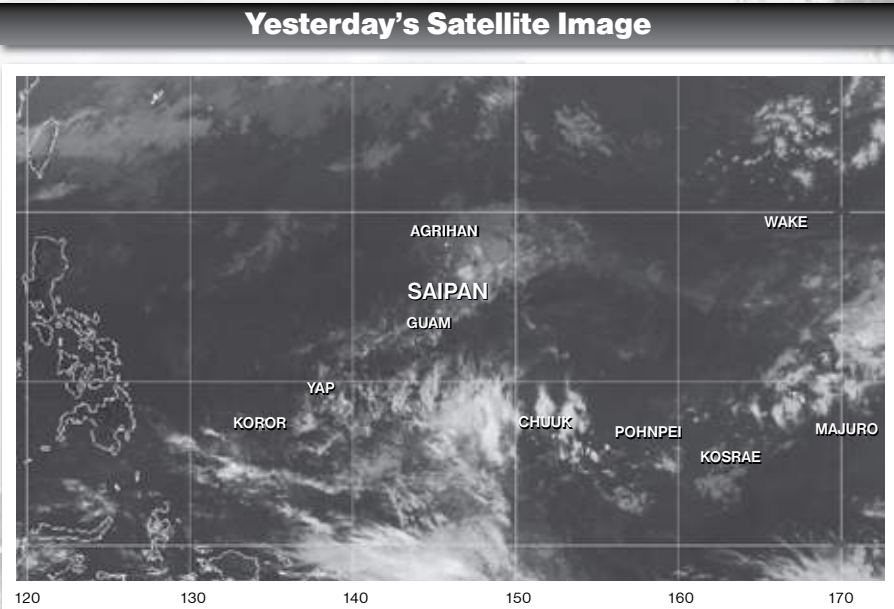
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers in the afternoon. Light east winds.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲68 ▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲66 ▼37
Hong Kong	Rain	▲72 ▼66
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77 ▼69
London	Showers	▲52 ▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78 ▼52
Manila	Rain	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲71 ▼64
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲80 ▼67
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼40
Osaka	Rain	▲47 ▼35
Paris	Rain	▲50 ▼41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼35
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼41
Salem	Showers	▲53 ▼32
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲43 ▼28
Tokyo	Rain	▲54 ▼46
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲51 ▼41

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:51 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:19 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:59 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N143E and extends southwestward past 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found north a line from 22N130E to 25N138E. A surface trough extends from 17N145E southwestward to 12N142E. Scattered showers across the far Northern Mariana Islands are within an area from 19N148E to 16N150E to 12N141E back to 19N148E. A near equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E to end near 2N150E. A weak circulation is near 7N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are in and area from east of Yap eastward across Chuuk or between 5N and 10N from 144E to 154E. A cold front stretches southwestward from 22N180 to 14N165E then continues westward as a diffuse shear line to end near 18N150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough extends northeastward from near Kosrae at 6N162E to 13N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kwajalein are in an area from 14N168E to 14N179E to 6N165E back to 14N168E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:18 AM	6:29 PM	Today	5:01 AM	5:14 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM	Thursday	5:38 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Friday	6:16 AM	6:58 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Saturday	6:57 AM	7:54 PM
Sunday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM	Sunday	7:41 AM	8:54 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan	
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan	
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am 11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan	
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam	
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am 2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan	
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam	
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan	
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam	
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan	
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan	
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan	
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota	
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam	
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am 5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau	
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam	
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya	
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon	
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am 4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita	
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am 12:40pm Daily
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Congress offers student artists a chance to be seen

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aspiring artists from the Northern Mariana Islands will have the chance to showcase their work at the U.S. Capitol, Delegate Gregorio “Kilili” C. Sablan said here Monday.

Sablan is inviting high school students from around the CNMI to enter the Congressional Arts Competition. Every spring, the U.S. House of Representatives holds the contest, which recognizes the outstanding artwork of one student from each of the nation’s congressional districts.

The winning piece from the Marianas will be displayed alongside art from around the United States for a year in the walkway that connects the Cannon House Office Building to the U.S. Capitol, where congressional members, staff, and visitors walk through every day.

Sablan said the theme for this year’s contest is “Traditions of the Marianas.”

“I am encouraging talented artists on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to create a piece that illustrates the beauty and culture of the Northern Mariana Islands,” Sablan said. “This is a perfect opportunity for us to tell people in D.C. that somewhere in the Pacific is a U.S. territory with beauty unrivalled and hospitality unparalleled.”

The competition is open to high school students grades 9 through 12. Participants may submit a



Members of Congress, their staff, and thousands upon thousands of Washington visitors enjoy the student artwork exhibited for a year in the walkway between the Cannon House Office Building and the U.S. Capitol.

painting using oil, acrylic or watercolor as their medium. Those opting for a drawing may use pastels, colored pencils, charcoal, ink, or markers. Collages, lithographs, silkscreens, block prints, photographs, and computer-generated artwork will also be accepted provided they are two-dimensional.

Started in 1982, the competition is designed to promote

the artistic talents of students across America. In the years since, more than 650,000 high school students throughout the United States have competed for the honor of having their work exhibited.

Artwork is judged on originality, creativity, visual impact, expression of idea or theme and use of technique.

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the student’s own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be

accepted. Each piece can be no larger than 30”x30”x4” (30 inches high, 30 inches wide and 4 inches deep). Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.

A typed copy of the student release form must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Student release forms are available at <http://sablan.house.gov/services/artistic-discovery.shtml>

Artwork should be delivered to the Congressional Office on Saipan no later than 5pm, April 24, 2009 (Chamorro Standard Time). The office, located at 1345 Ascension Ct., Capitol Hill on Saipan, is open weekdays from 8am to 5pm. Entries may also be mailed to P.O. Box 504879, Saipan MP 96950.

For inquiries, e-mail Michelle Tenorio at michelle.tenorio@mail.house.gov or Paul Reyes at paul.reyes@mail.house.gov. Write “Artistic Discovery Contest” as the subject of the e-mail. Interested parties may also call Sablan’s Washington, D.C. office at (202) 2252646 or his District office on Saipan at (670) 323-2647 or 48. **(PR)**

Asians, Pacific Islanders urged to participate in 2010 decennial census

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Reps. Mike Honda and Robert C. “Bobby” Scott hosted census stakeholders yesterday for a national census teleconference meeting that focused on outreach to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

During the call, the Census Bureau, congressional leaders, community stakeholders, and ethnic media reporters engaged in a dialogue on outreach to this growing and diverse population, currently constituting over 15 million people in the United States. Participants hailed from throughout the United States, including California, Ohio, Texas, New York, Washington, Florida, Minnesota, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, and other areas with significant Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

“We each have a critical role to play to make sure that our communities are counted,” said

Honda, chair of CAPAC. Honda, member of the Commerce, Science, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the Census Bureau, advocated for the \$1 billion of census funding that was included in the economic recovery legislation, boosting resources for the constitutionally mandated count. “We need trusted opinion leaders and nonprofits in our communities, ethnic media outlets, and congressional district offices to help get the word out.”

Scott discussed the stakes in an accurate decennial count for Asian and Pacific Islander communities. “It is incredibly important that our communities know about the decennial census, and fill out those forms,” said Scott, chair of CAPAC’s Civil Rights Task Force. “Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, including provisions that protect language minorities, are trig-

gered by the decennial count. The decennial count also affects bread and butter issues in our communities. Each person left uncouned costs a local jurisdiction \$24,000 of federal funding over a course of 10 years.”

Community advocates highlighted the need for the Census Bureau to ensure diversity when

Asian Americans have been missed in the census. AAJC is working with community leaders, government officials and the Census Bureau to ensure that Asian Americans are fully counted in the 2010 census.”

Concerns about funding available for census outreach efforts were also raised. Vincent

Pan, executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, a San Francisco-based advocacy organization noted, “In this economy,

I’m extremely concerned that community based organizations most capable of assisting Census efforts do not have access to the local or state resources that they have had in the past.”

The vital role of ethnic media outlets was also highlighted. “There are more than 800 Asian Pacific American media organizations throughout the U.S. and this doesn’t even include the vast number of new media,”

said Bill Imada, chairman and CEO of IW Group, a full-service communications firm that specializes in Asian American markets. “This figure represents more than a 300 percent growth rate since 1990. The growth of APA media in this country clearly demonstrates the importance these organizations play in providing culturally relevant and accessible news information to our communities around the country. We need the support of community-based organizations throughout the country to get the word out about the importance of the Census.”

CAPAC is composed of members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac>. **(PR)**

generating the largest number of jobs in the shortest period of time; and creating lasting value for the American public.

The department also is developing a web page for public information on the economic recovery plan and by March 3 will begin providing detailed reporting on these efforts through Recovery.gov, the official Administration website on the initiative. **(DOI)**

Rapid implementation of \$3B recovery plan starts

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Pledging swift, responsible implementation of President Obama’s economic recovery plan, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar estimated the \$3 billion in funding allocated for the department could create as many as 100,000 jobs and stimulate business activity in communities across America.

“With this bold initiative, we are making an investment in conserving America’s timeless treasures—our stunning natural landscapes, our monuments to liberty, the icons of our culture and heritage—while helping working families and their communities prosper again,” Salazar said. “The President has made a

commitment to transparency and accountability to the American people for this investment and I am determined to ensure our efforts adhere to those guiding principles.”

Salazar announced that he has established a Recovery Act Task Force that includes the leadership of Interior bureaus to deter-

mine which proposed projects should be funded. He also announced that he will soon name a Stimulus Czar to oversee Interior’s responsible implementation of the program. Among the major criteria for selecting projects, Salazar noted, are addressing the department’s highest priority mission needs;

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
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PMB 238, Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) **NO.**
vs.) 08-0322
LEONARDO P. KANI) NOTICE
and MERTIE T. KANI,) **OF SALE**
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on March 10, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Leonardo P. Kani and Mertie T. Kani in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 016 B 10, containing 3180 square meters, more or less,
and
Lot 016 B 11, containing 3950 square meters, more or less,

both of which are part of Lot No. 663, which in turn is more particularly described as:

Lot 663, TD 764 (now known as Lot 016 B 10, Lot 016 B 11, and Lot 016 B 12), containing an area of 1.2 hectares, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 016 B 00 the original of which was recorded October 28, 1971 as Document No. 1285 at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Note: Lot 016 B 12 is not included in this auction.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 10, 2009, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 12th day of March, 2009:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

Island Snapshots



COVENANT DEBATE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Micaela T. Demapan, right, and Young Eun Lee, left, both of Marianas Baptist Academy, hold their perpetual plaque after emerging as winners in the 2009 Covenant Day Debate in the senior and junior divisions, respectively, on Monday at the CNMI Supreme Court in Susupe.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Young Eun Lee, left, of Marianas Baptist Academy, reacts as she was announced the junior division winner in the 2009 Covenant Day Debate on Monday at the CNMI Supreme Court in Susupe. Also in photo are, from second left, NMI Humanities Council board member Lillian Tenorio and vice chair Charles Reyes Jr., National Forensics League board chair Harold Easton, and second placer Glen Florendo of Grace Christian Academy.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Baptist Academy student Micaela T. Demapan, right, is all smiles after being named 2009 Covenant Day Debate winner in the senior division on Monday at the CNMI Supreme Court in Susupe. In photo are, from left, second placer in the junior division Jessica Lee, also of MBA, NMI Humanities Council board member Lillian Tenorio and vice chair Charles Reyes Jr., National Forensics League board chair Harold Easton, and Demapan.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

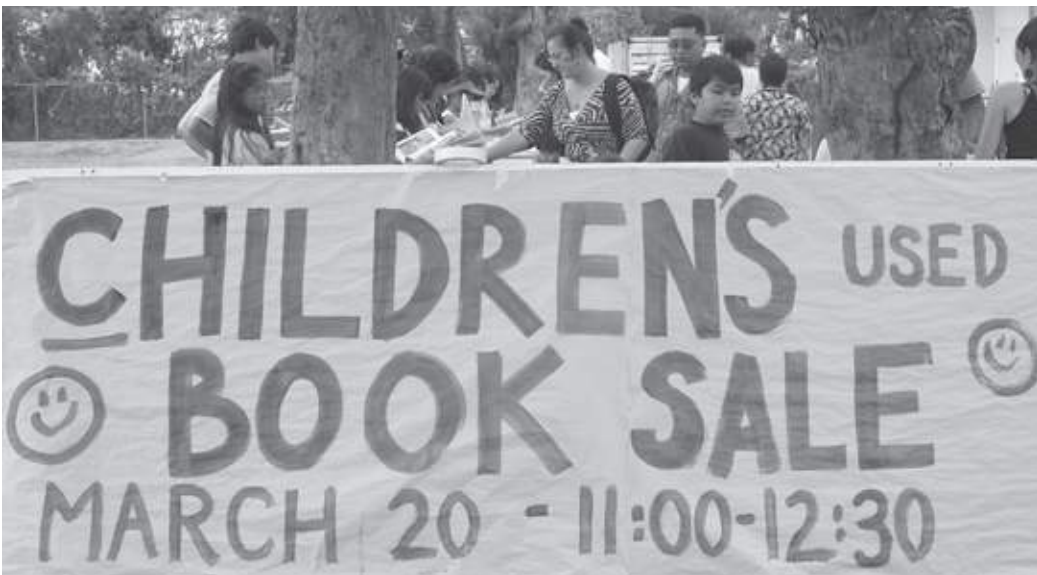
Glen Florendo, left, of Grace Christian Academy, is the second placer in the junior division of the 2009 Covenant Day Debate. He is joined in the photo by fellow students and a teacher at GCA during the debate on Monday at the CNMI Supreme Court in Susupe.



SUPER CPR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Close to 100 participants attend the Super CPR Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall over the weekend. The event was conducted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.



FUNDRAISING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Students, parents and other members of the community flock to a Friday book sale initiated by the Saipan Community School's seventh graders to raise funds for a locker.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday papa Fidel A. Mendiola! "When we were little, we thought you were the best grandpa anyone could ever wish for. You taught us so much and always made us feel loved and special. Now that we are not so little anymore, we just wanted you to know that some things never change—we still think you're best grandpa anyone could ever hope for. En hahasso hao pa'go gi birthday-mu, ya en tayuyuyuti hao todü i tiempo. Si Yu'us Un Binendisi gi birthday-mu yan para todü i tiempo. En guiaya hao Papa!" With love, your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings going out to Sarana Vivao, from your entire MHS Dolphin Family! Hope you have a great day, and wishing you many more to come!



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A girl checks out the books on sale at the Saipan Community School in Susupe last Friday. The book sale was initiated by the school's seventh graders to raise funds for a locker.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wishing a very, very happy birthday to my wonderful husband, Michael H. San Nicolas, who is celebrating his birthday today, March 24, 2009. Much blessings and many more to come! From your wife and children.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday shoutout to the Chalan Kiya King, TonTon Dela Cruz "Boki," who celebrates his birthday today, March 25, 2009. Big hugs from your godsisters.

Business

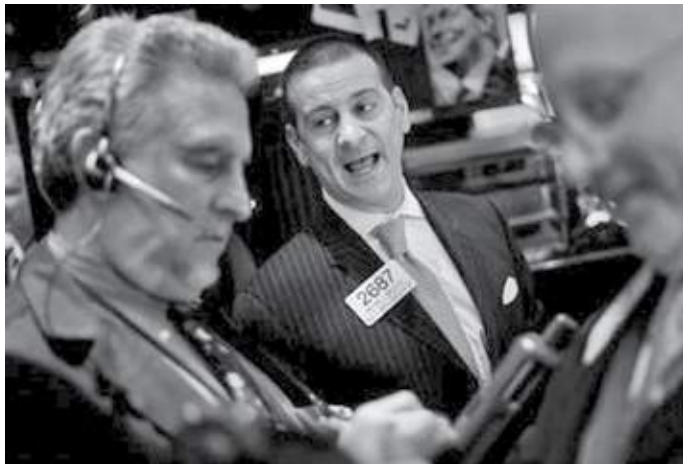
Dow jumps as White House moves on bad bank assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration aimed squarely at the crisis clogging the nation's credit system Monday with a plan to take over up to \$1 trillion in sour mortgage securities with the help of private investors. For once, Wall Street cheered. The announcement, closely stage-managed throughout the day, filled in crucial blanks in the administration's financial rescue package and formed what President Barack Obama called "one more critical element in our recovery."

The coordinated effort by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. relies on a mix of government and private money—mostly from institutional investors such as hedge funds—to help banks rid their balance sheets of real-estate related securities that are now extremely difficult to value.

The goal, said Obama, is to get banks lending again, so "families can get basic consumer loans, auto loans, student loans, (and so) that small businesses are able to finance themselves, and we can start getting this economy moving again."

It was a huge gambit and one that came like a tonic to Wall Street, which had panned an



AP
Michael J. Sollitto, Specialist for Banc of America, and Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York Monday, March 23, 2009.

earlier outline of the program that lacked detail.

Stocks soared, the Dow Jones industrial average shooting up nearly 500 points, thanks to the bank-assets plan and a report showing an unexpected jump in home sales.

The introduction of the plan was closely choreographed so that the president—rather than Geithner—would be the first administration official to appear on camera at midday to discuss it. Geithner met earlier in the day, before markets opened, with a group of reporters at the Treasury Department to go over specifics. But cameras and broadcast-quality

audio recorders were barred.

It was the reverse of what happened Feb. 10. Then, after Obama had helped raise expectations toward Geithner and the plan, the treasury secretary went before cameras and bombed. The Dow plunged about 300 points amid investor confusion about details.

The fleshed-out plan is designed to help fix a value on damaged mortgage loans and other toxic securities.

If the value of the securities goes up, the private investors and taxpayers would share in the gains. If the values go down, the government and private investors would incur losses.

Workers feel the brunt of health insurance woes

WASHINGTON (AP)—American workers—whose taxes pay for massive government health programs—are getting squeezed like no other group by private health insurance premiums that are rising much faster than their wages.

While just about all retirees are covered, and nearly 90 percent of children have health insurance, workers now are at significantly higher risk of being uninsured than in the 1990s, the last time lawmakers attempted a health care overhaul, according to a study to be released Tuesday.

The study for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that nearly 1 in 5 workers is uninsured, a statistically significant increase from fewer than 1 in 7 during the mid-1990s.

The problem is cost. Total

premiums for employer plans have risen six to eight times faster than wages, depending on whether individual or family coverage is picked, the study found.

"The thing I think is interesting is how many workers are newly uninsured," said Lynn Blewett, director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center at the University of Minnesota, which conducted the research. "In the last couple of years we've seen a deterioration of private health insurance."

About 20.7 million workers were uninsured in the mid-1990s. A decade later, it was 26.9 million, an increase of about 6 million, the study found.

In the 1990s, there were eight states with 20 percent

or more of the working age population uninsured. Now there are 14: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina and Texas.

Yet workers continue to pay the bill for covering others. Their payroll taxes help support Medicare, which covers the elderly. Income taxes and other federal and state levies pay for covering the poor and the children of low-income working parents. But government provides little direct assistance to help cover workers themselves.

"There really aren't safety-net programs for adults," Blewett said.

crucial to economic activity.

Oil eases but stays strong above \$53 in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices eased Tuesday in Asia but stayed above \$53 a barrel on hopes that the U.S. government's move to purge ailing banks of up to \$1 trillion of toxic assets could speed up economic recovery. Benchmark crude for May delivery dipped 26 cents to \$53.54 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract climbed as high as \$54.05 on Monday before settling at \$53.80, up \$1.73. Oil prices have risen more than 30 percent this month. "Prices have dropped a bit this morning but remain well above \$53, which is a very strong price. The question really is whether this rally is sustainable," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Nation

Ice on wings becomes main focus in Montana crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Speculation over the crash of a single-engine turboprop plane into a cemetery shifted to ice on the wings Monday after it became less likely that overloading was to blame, given that half of the 14 people on board were small children.

While descending Sunday in preparation for landing at the Bert Mooney Airport in Butte, Mont., the plane passed through a layer of air at about 1,500 feet that was conducive to icing because the temperatures were below freezing and the air "had 100 percent relative humidity or was saturated," according to AccuWeather.com, a forecasting service in State College, Pa.

Safety experts said similar icing condition existed when a Continental Airlines twin-engine turboprop crashed into a

home near Buffalo Niagara International Airport last month, killing 50.

A possible aerodynamic stall in which ice causes the plane to lose lift, and the pilot's reaction to it, has been the focus of the Buffalo investigation.

"It's Buffalo all over again, or it could be," said John Goglia, a former member of the National Transportation Safety Board. "Icing, given those conditions, is certainly going to be high on the list of things to look at for the investigators."

Mark Rosenker, acting NTSB chairman, told reporters in Montana that investigators would look at icing on the wings as a factor.

"We will be looking at everything as it relates to the weather," he said.

The plane, designed to carry

10 people, crashed 500 feet short of the Montana airport runway Sunday, nose-diving into a cemetery and killing seven adults and seven children aboard. Relatives said the victims were headed to an exclusive resort on a ski vacation, and gave the children's ages as 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, plus two 4-year-olds.

Safety experts said finding the cause of the crash is likely to be significantly complicated by the absence of either a cockpit voice recorder or a flight data recorder, which isn't required for smaller aircraft that don't fly commercial passengers like airlines and charter services.

Former NTSB chairman Jim Hall pointed to similarities between the Montana crash and a March 26, 2005 crash near Bellefonte, Pa., in which a pilot and five passengers were killed.

Alaska volcano Mount Redoubt erupts 5 times

WILLOW, Alaska (AP)—Alaska's Mount Redoubt volcano erupted five times overnight, sending an ash plume more than 9 miles into the air in the volcano's first emissions in nearly 20 years. Residents in the state's largest city were spared from falling ash, though fine gray dust was falling Monday morning on small communities north of Anchorage. The ash began falling around daybreak and continued into midmorning. They were supposed to end by noon.

"It's coming down," Rita Jackson, 56, said early Monday morning at a 24-hour grocery store in Willow, about 50 miles north of Anchorage. She slid her fingers across the hood of her car, through a dusting of ash.

Ash from Alaska's volcanos is like a rock fragment with jagged edges and has been used as an

industrial abrasive. It can injure skin, eyes and breathing passages. The young, the elderly and people with respiratory problems are especially susceptible to ash-related health problems. Ash can also cause damage engines in planes, cars and other vehicles.

Alaska Airlines on Monday canceled 19 flights in and out of the Anchorage international airport because of the ash.

Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage told only essential personnel to report to work. The Air Force says 60 planes, including fighter jets, cargo aircraft and a 747 commercial plane, were being sheltered.

The first eruption, in a sparsely area across Cook Inlet from the Kenai Peninsula, occurred at 10:38 p.m. Sunday and the fifth happened at 4:30

a.m. Monday, according to the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

The wind was taking the ash cloud away from Anchorage, toward Willow and Talkeetna, near Mount McKinley, North America's largest mountain in Denali National Park.

Dave Stricklan, a hydrometeorological technician with the National Weather Service, expected very fine ash.

"Just kind of a light dusting," he said. He said the significant amount of ash probably dropped immediately, right down the side of the volcano.

"The heavier stuff drops out very quickly, and then the other stuff filters out. There's going to be a very fine amount of it that's going to be suspended in the atmosphere for quite some time," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Parolee in Oakland police shootings linked to rape

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The parolee who killed three Oakland police officers and left a fourth brain-dead over the weekend had been tentatively linked by DNA evidence to a rape the day before the shootings, authorities said. Oakland police spokesman Jeff Thomason confirmed a report on the San Francisco Chronicle's Web site on Monday night that DNA from an unsolved rape in Oakland in February was a probable match to that of 26-year-old Lovelle Mixon. Investigators got that information Friday, the day before Mixon opened fire on the officers following a routine traffic stop. Mixon is the primary suspect in the rape and is being investigated to see if there are any connections to other rapes, Thomason said. Thomason said further tests would need to be done on the DNA in question to make sure it is a solid match.

Octuplets mom fires free nanny training service

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Octuplets mother Nadya Suleman has fired a nonprofit group of nurses that helped care for her children, accusing the group of spying on her and reporting her to child welfare officials, her spokesman said Monday. Suleman attorney Jeff Czech said the relationship started badly between Suleman and Angels

in Waiting, which has been training nannies paid by Suleman at the family's La Habra home. Last month an attorney for Angels in Waiting filed a complaint against Suleman with child welfare officials, seeking an investigation into whether the mother could provide a suitable environment for her 14 children. Suleman later had several confrontations with the nurses, Czech said, and the situation grew unbearable Sunday when Suleman came to believe that Angels in Waiting founder Linda West-Conforti was allegedly filing a report against her with child welfare officials.

Fla. student suspended from bus for passing gas

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—An eighth-grader was suspended from riding the school bus for three days after being accused of passing gas. The bus driver wrote on a misbehavior form that a 15-year-old teen passing gas on the bus Monday to make the other children laugh, creating a stench so bad that it was difficult to breathe. The bus driver handed the teen the suspension form the next day. Polk County school officials said there's no rule against flatulence, but there are rules against causing a disturbance on the bus. The teen said he wasn't the one passing gas. Whether he did it or not, he might have gotten off easy. A 13-year-old student at a Stuart school was arrested in November after authorities said he broke wind in class.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks rise after US rallies on bank plan

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stocks extended their rally Tuesday after Wall Street surged on hopes the U.S. plan to rid banks of souring debts at the heart of the financial crisis will revive growth in the world's largest economy. The gains were muted compared to those in the U.S., where leading benchmarks jumped around 7 percent or more, after Asian shares climbed ahead of Monday's announcement about the government's latest plan to solve the banking crisis. Financial firms across the region were strong, while a weaker yen buoyed Japanese exporters. Investors worldwide appeared comforted after the Obama administration said it would aim to remove as much as \$1 trillion in toxic securities and loans weighing down bank balance sheets - a key measure of the government's broader effort to restore consumer and company lending so

Asia

Pakistan president calls for reconciliation



Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry arrives at the Supreme Court compound in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani chief justice whose ouster sparked tremendous political turmoil made a celebrated return to his office Tuesday following calls for reconciliation and a strong judiciary by the country's president, who had long blocked the judge's reinstatement.

Meanwhile, the capital re-

mained tense after a suicide bombing killed an officer at a police station housing intelligence facilities.

Supporters of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry threw rose petals on his car as it entered the Supreme Court compound. Chaudhry had technically resumed work Sunday,

the day after the justice who had replaced him retired.

Political turmoil over Chaudhry's fate following his 2007 firing by former President Pervez Musharraf has riveted Pakistan but worried Western allies who feared it would distract the country from battling al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

Report: NKorea suspects US journalists were spying

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean military intelligence officers in Pyongyang are questioning two American journalists for alleged espionage after they illegally crossed into the country from China, a South Korean newspaper reported Tuesday.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, journalists working for the San Francisco-based media outlet Current

TV, were undergoing "intense interrogation," with investigators poring through their notebooks, videotapes and camera for signs they were spying on the North's military facilities, the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said, citing an unnamed South Korean intelligence official.

The two were being held at private quarters run by North Korean military intelligence agency on the outskirts of the

capital, the report said.

South Korea's main spy agency, the National Intelligence Service, said South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities were keeping a close watch on the case but that it could not immediately confirm the report.

Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with the North, also said it could not confirm the details.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan main airport opens runway after deadly crash

TOKYO (AP)—Investigators hauled away charred wreckage and planes began to land again Tuesday morning on the main runway of Japan's largest international airport, where a day earlier a FedEx cargo flight crashed and exploded, killing its two pilots. About 170 workers labored Monday night under giant construction lights to clean up the scene and remove the remnants of the MD-11 cargo plane, pieces of which were put onto large flatbed trucks and moved to a spot about 1,000 feet (300 meters) away for investigation. The runway was declared fit for use by airport officials and officially reopened at 9:10 a.m. Tuesday. The plane's black box data recorder and cockpit voice recorders have been recovered and the data seems to be usable, according to Transport Ministry spokesman Michinobu Osuka. Officials from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board

were expected to arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon to assist in the investigation, he said.

NATO: Taliban commander among 10 killed in strike

KABUL (AP)—NATO troops killed a senior Taliban commander and nine other militants in southern Afghanistan, officials said Monday, striking a blow in the group's heartland where the U.S. plans to send thousands of additional troops to stem the growing violence. Over a dozen Afghan and coalition forces have been killed in the south in recent days, including eight Afghan police who were killed by Taliban fighters Monday in the Kandahar province. U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban government in 2001, but many of the militants fled south and east to Pakistan where they have been launching cross-border attacks into Afghanistan alongside al-Qaida. President Barack Obama has already pledged to send an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan this year

and is working with his team to overhaul U.S. strategy with the hope of improving security and stability in the country.

UN rules detention of Myanmar's Suu Kyi illegal

BANGKOK (AP)—The United Nations has ruled the continued detention of Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi violates the country's own laws as well as those of the international community, a legal document says. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has spent 13 of the last 19 years under house arrest, with the ruling junta yearly extending her detention despite international outcry. "The latest renewal (2008) of the order to place Ms. Suu Kyi under house arrest not solely violates international law but also national domestic laws of Myanmar," said a legal opinion by the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions that has been sent to the Myanmar government.

World

Suicide blast kills 23 at funeral in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber struck a tent filled Monday with Kurdish funeral mourners, unleashing a huge fireball that killed at least 23 people in a northern town where Kurds and Arabs are competing for power. Also Monday, Turkey's visiting president pressed the Iraqi government to crack down on Kurdish rebels who stage cross-border raids into Turkish territory from sanctuaries in northern Iraq.

The provincial security office said 23 people were killed and 34 wounded in the suicide attack in the town of Jalula some 80 miles (120 kilometers) northeast of Baghdad.

A member of the provincial security committee, Amir Rifaat, said 24 people were

killed and 28 wounded. The difference could not be immediately reconciled.

Karim Khudadat, whose father was being mourned, said he was receiving visitors when the bomber struck.

"I was with my relatives outside the tent receiving people who came to offer condolences when suddenly the explosion took place," Khudadat said. "Suddenly a huge flame engulfed the tent and I was wounded in my head and legs."

Elsewhere, eight people were killed and 10 wounded in a bombing near a bus stop west of Baghdad, and a policeman died and eight people were wounded in a suicide blast at a market in the northern town of Tal Afar.

A series of high-profile bombings this month has raised concern that insurgents may be regrouping as the U.S. begins to scale down combat operations and hand over security responsibility to the Iraqis ahead of a planned American troop withdrawal by the end of 2011.

The attack in Jalula was noteworthy because it points to rising tensions in the north between Kurds and Arabs over control of a swath of territory that the Kurds want to incorporate into their self-ruled region.

U.S. officials believe Kurdish-Arab tension is among the major flashpoint issues threatening Iraqi stability now that the threat posed by Sunni and Shiite insurgents has been diminished.

Mexico offers \$2 million for top drug lords

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's government on Monday offered \$2 million each for information leading to the arrest of 24 top drug lords in a public challenge to the cartels' violent grip on the country.

The list indicated that drug gangs have splintered into six main cartels under pressure from the U.S. and Mexican governments. The two most powerful gangs—the Pacific and Gulf cartels—each suffered fractures that have given rise to new cartels, according to the list published by the Attorney General's Office.

The list offers 30 million pesos (\$2 million) in rewards for 24 top members of the cartels and 15 million pesos (\$1 mil-

lion) for 13 of their lieutenants.

Mexico's drug violence has killed more than 9,000 people since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006 as gangs battle each other for territory and fight off a government crackdown. Some of that violence is spilling over into the United States, especially the Southwest, where kidnaps and killings are on the rise.

The rewards are the largest Mexico has ever offered for top drug lords, said Ricardo Najarra, a spokesman for the Attorney General's office. Some of the men, such as suspected Pacific cartel leaders Joaquin Guzman and Ismael Zambada, are targeted by separate \$5 million reward offers from the

U.S. government.

The new list appeared to be the first offering rewards for all the most-wanted cartel members at once. The government could be trying to signal its determination to take on the cartels at the same time, rather than one or two at a time as past administrations have done, said Andrew Selee, director of the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute.

"It tells you a little bit about Calderon's thinking," Selee said. "He really sees this as something he wants to eradicate. He's willing to take them all on as a unit."

The document offered insight into the reorganization of the cartels more than two years into Calderon's military crackdown against them.

WORLD BRIEFS

Defying warrant, Sudanese president travels abroad

KHARTOUM (AP)—Sudan's president traveled to Eritrea Monday, choosing one of Africa's most politically isolated nations for his first trip abroad since an international court sought his arrest on charges of war crimes in Darfur. The one-day visit followed Eritrea's official invitation to Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, who faces the arrest warrant by the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court. Eritrean television showed live coverage of al-Bashir being greeted at the airport in the Eritrean capital Asmara by his counterpart President Isaias Afwerki, along with drummers and dancers. Sudanese state television later Monday showed live images of al-Bashir returning to Khartoum. Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor said the visit was "important" and reflected Eritrean "solidarity ... with Sudan against the ICC." Eritrean Information Minister Ali Abdu

told The Associated Press that al-Bashir was accompanied by heads of security and intelligence and was there to discuss regional security.

Israeli soldiers' T-shirts depict shooting Arabs

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military condemned soldiers for wearing T-shirts of a pregnant woman in a rifle's crosshairs with the slogan "1 Shot 2 Kills," and another of a gun-toting child with the words, "The smaller they are, the harder it is." The T-shirts were worn by some Israeli Defense Force soldiers to mark the end of basic training and other military courses, the newspaper Haaretz said. The appearance of the T-shirts followed allegations of misconduct by Israeli troops during the three-week Gaza war. Palestinian officials say about 1,400 Palestinians were killed, most of them civilians. Thirteen Israelis died, three of them civilians. The army said it would not tolerate the T-shirts and would take

disciplinary action against the soldiers involved, although it was not clear how many wore the shirts or how widely they were distributed.

N. Ireland teen charged with killing policeman

DUBLIN (AP)—Authorities charged an Irish Catholic teenager Monday with killing a policeman—one of two deadly gun attacks by IRA dissidents this month that rocked Northern Ireland's peace process. The 17-year-old male suspect was arrested the day after the March 9 death of Constable Stephen Carroll, 48, an attack claimed by a splinter group called the Continuity IRA. The suspect was not further identified pending a court appearance Tuesday in a Belfast suburb. In a statement the Police Service of Northern Ireland said the teenager faces counts of murder, possession of a firearm, collecting information likely to be of use to terrorists, and membership in the outlawed Continuity IRA.

Campus Life

Manta Flyerz: Making SSHS, CNMI proud

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The outstanding members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Flyerz band, who emerged champion in the rock category during the 5th Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, shared their recent success with *Saipan Tribune* with the objective of inspiring more students and youths to get involved in worthy activities that will bring fun and memorable experiences to all.

Composed of Yoon Seok Choi, Sang Woo Han, Joseph Jang, and Min Seok Choi, the group wishes to thank the school's band teacher, Will DeWitt, and administrators Peter Le'au and Craig Garrison for all their support to the student band members.

Saipan Tribune: How does the group feel about winning the gold award and emerging as the best rock band in the Tumon Bay Music Festival?

Flyerz: We are proud that we who came from the CNMI won the first place.

ST: How do you assess the overall performance of the Manta Fly-

erz and what were the pieces of music you played in the festival? How did you come up with the selection of these pieces?

Flyers: One of the three songs that we performed is *Arirang*. *Arirang* is Korean traditional song, which was passed down from old times. What we performed was the translated rock version by artist Do Hyun Yoon. Since all members of Manta Flyerz are Koreans, we decided to take the chance to introduce Korea to many people by performing our traditional song.

ST: What inspired and motivated the members to join the festival, considering that the group is newly formed?

Flyerz: We wanted to challenge ourselves. Our goal is to step up to any challenge...and we're happy we successfully overcame this one particular challenge for us.

ST: What characteristics and traits were developed among you when you joined the festival?

Flyerz: Teamwork and unity.

ST: What are the goals and plans of the Manta Flyerz after this successful Guam competition?

Flyerz: We will practice to get better each day, and we will prepare for the next Tumon Bay Music Festival.

ST: What memorable moments did you have in the Guam competition?

Flyers: We had a lot of memorable moments there but we cannot forget the moment when we met music experts like Ryan Shook, who was among the judges in the festival. We admire him for his awesome performances with the Matala Group of Musicians.

ST: Can you share with us how the Manta Flyers was formed?

Flyers: It was through our music teacher, Mr. DeWitt, who introduced us to the jazz and rock music. He inspired and encouraged us to form the group as he believes that we have the talent, skill, and commitment to play rock music. Our co-member Joseph then formed the Flyerz.

ST: Any message to colleagues, youths, and students in general?

Flyerz: Whenever you have the chance to show your talent, show it and use it.

Chang Young Kang, 17, sophomore, plays the drums. Yoon Seok Choi, 18, junior, is the band's vocalist. Min Seok (Vincent) Choi, 19, senior, plays bass. Joseph Jang, 16, sophomore, plays guitar; Sang Woo Han, 16, sophomore, guitar; and Jimmy Jung, 16, sophomore, bass.

MathCourt K-5 Regionals 2009



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School's Art Nathanael Borromeo and Jun Young Kim emerged victorious in the recently concluded Mathcourt regional competition held at Dandan Elementary School Saturday.

K-2 NUMBERS

GOLD	John Tam	CCA
SILVER	Harry Noh	CCA
BRONZE	Natalie Montano	WSR
	Lee Ji Eun	LISS
	Grace Choi	SIS

3-5 NUMBERS

GOLD	Peter Camacho	GCA
SILVER	Joel Jang	EUC
BRONZE	Samuel Seo	GCA
	Jun Pyo Jeon	SCS
	Ji Yeon Lew	SIS

K-2 ALGEBRA

GOLD	Lee Ji Eun	LISS
SILVER	Park Hye Jung	LISS
BRONZE	Lee Jae Park	MCS
	Tina Choi	CCA
	Gregorio Pionnah	GM

3-5 ALGEBRA

GOLD	Jun Young Kim	SVS
SILVER	Joel Jang	EUC
BRONZE	Art Borromeo	SVS
	Xu Rex	MCS
	Myoungki Oh	SVS

K-2 GEO/MSMT

GOLD	Michael Lee	SCS
SILVER	John Tam	CCA
BRONZE	Robin Reyes	GM
	Natalie Montano	WSR
	Frederic Guintu	CCA

3-5 GEO/MSMT

GOLD	Masur Alam	WSR
SILVER	Terrence Blanca	KOB
BRONZE	Samuel Seo	GCA
	Cerinn Hwang	SIS
	Kelvin DiGuerrero	KOB

K-2 DSP

GOLD	Michael Lee	SCS
SILVER	Robin Reyes	GM
BRONZE	Alex Hwang	SIS
	Joselito Gomez	WSR
	Caryl Batenga	GCA

3-5 DSP

GOLD	Jasmine Gortayo	GCA
SILVER	Cathryn Javier	MCS
BRONZE	John Del Rosario	WSR
	Xu Rex	MCS
	Soo Jin Jung	SIS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Manta Flyerz band members pose with the entire Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band after a clinic with a musical expert in Guam.



Joseph Jang



Min Seok Choi



Sang Woo Han



Yoon Seok Choi



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Manta Flyerz band during a performance in the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Spring break safety tips

By **LINDSAY MINNEMA**
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

For students in kindergarten through college, nothing is like the excitement of spring break (except for maybe the wonder that is summer break). With the school holiday coming up for many kids, it is a perfect time to remind them how to stay safe. Here are just a few tips from the American College of Emergency Physicians:

■ Spending a lot of time outside? Wear sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, and wear a hat and a good pair of sunglasses.

■ If your break includes water activities, remind your kids to swim with a buddy or wear a life vest when boating.

■ When venturing far from home, famil-

iarize your spring breakers with their surroundings, and let them know who to call in the event of an emergency. Pack medications and proof of insurance, and carry a cell phone.

■ Get proper training for skilled activities such as surfing, water skiing and scuba diving. And don't overload the activities but make sure you get enough sleep. Sleep deprivation puts you at risk for accidents.

■ College-aged students need reminders about the dangers of binge drinking; drinking while driving, boating or swimming; and consuming illegal drugs. Of course, underage kids should never drink.

■ Tell your kids to stick with those they trust. Never go to an isolated place with a stranger.

WINNERS OF NFL REGIONAL

Impromptu speech:			4 th	Hazel Marie Doctor	MCS
1 st	Jesse Kilili Sablan	MBA	5 th	Debora Yoon	MBA
2 nd	Dencio Manet Manglona	MBA	Duo interpretation:		
3 rd	Chan Woo Lee	MBA	1 st	Bianca Blanco/Oilang Maui	GCA
4 th	Michael Sheu	MBA	2 nd	Sung Hee An/Laura You Mi Lee	MBA
5 th	Genesis Ranjo	CCA	3 rd	Kangsan David Kim/Bal Eum Hong	MBA
			4 th	Chiantee Rosete/Liezel Tiples	MHS
			5 th	Zelena Palijo/Hiromasa Kawahara	CCA
Story-telling:			International Extemporaneous:		
1 st	Joseph Martin	MHS	1 st	Frank Shing Chun Yeung	MBA
2 nd	Ryan Ortizo	MCS	2 nd	Chan Woo Lee	MBA
3 rd	Xiao Tian Falig	MBA	3 rd	Joseph Dionicio Torres	MBA
4 th	Da Bin Hong	CCA	4 th	Maria Carmen Cabrera	MBA
5 th	Hiromasa Kawahara	CCA	5 th	Sun Alex Park	MBA
Expository:			Local extemporaneous:		
1 st	Genesis Ranjo	CCA	1 st	Dencio Manet Manglona	MBA
2 nd	Frank Shing Chun	MBA	2 nd	Jessica Im Lee	MBA
3 rd	Han Bert Jeong	CCA	3 rd	Jesse Kilili Sablan	MBA
4 th	Zelena Palijol	CCA	4 th	Jennifer Sakamoto	MBA
5 th	Seong Bin Lee	MBA	5 th	Moon Richard Park	MBA
Commentary:			Lincoln Douglas Debate:		
1 st	Frank Shing Chun Yeung	MBA	1 st	Jessica Im Lee	MBA
2 nd	Maria Carmen Cabrera	MBA	2 nd	Micaela Demapan	MBA
3 rd	Sarah Lee	MBA	3 rd	Michael Sheu	MBA
4 th	Joseph Dionicio Torres	MBA	4 th	Sonia Jhung	SIS
5 th	Sun Alex Park	MBA	5 th	Min Joo Jung	SIS
Prose:			Humorous Interpretation:		
1 st	Hazel Marie Doctor	MCS	1 st	Ryan Ortizo	MCS
2 nd	John Edward Elenzano	MCS	2 nd	Kim Kang San	MBA
3 rd	Mercilynn Kaneshi	KHS	3 rd	Adeleyah Mojica	MHS
4 th	Adeleyah Mojica	MHS	4 th	William Salazar	CCA
5 th	Jessica Im Lee	MBA	5 th	Hazel Doctor	MCS
Poetry:			Dramatic Interpretation:		
1 st	Ryan Ortizo	MCS	1 st	Ryan Ortizo	MCS
2 nd	John Edward Elenzano	MCS	2 nd	John Edward Elenzano	MCS
3 rd	Dencio Manet Manglona	MBA	3 rd	Tommy Baik	MHS
4 th	Hazel Marie Doctor	MCS	4 th	Sung Hee An	MBA
5 th	Chiantee Rosete	MHS	5 th	Mark Anthony Liban	MBA
Original oratory:					
1 st	Mark Anthony Liban	MBA			
2 nd	Xiao Tian Falig	MBA			
3 rd	Genesis Ranjo	CCA			

WINNERS OF NJFL REGIONAL

Impromptu speech:			1 st	Anne Gelika Elenzano	MCS
1 st	Anastasia Schweiger	GCA	2 nd	Eunice Park	MBA
2 nd	Zalika Joyner	Chacha	3 rd	Matthew Lopez	Hopwood
3 rd	Mikey Johnson	SCS	4 th	Janela Revilla	GCA
4 th	Se Young Hwang	MBA	5 th	Anastasia Schweiger	GCA
5 th	Glen Florendo	GCA	Prose:		
Extemporaneous speech:			1 st	Zelika Joyner	Chacha
1 st	Eunice Park	MBA	2 nd	Jacklyn Garote	SVES
2 nd	Suk Hoo Kim	MBA	3 rd	Yeng Choi	Eucon
3 rd	Kanata E. Omori	MBA	4 th	Jimin Ryu	SCS
4 th	Jimin Ryu	SCS	5 th	Alina Ishikawa	MBA
5 th	Albert Yen	SCS	Poetry:		
Lincoln Douglas Debate:			1 st	Anna Gelika Elenzano	MCS
1 st	Glen Florendo	GCA	2 nd	Crystalline Cristobal	GCA
2 nd	Young Eun Lee	MBA	3 rd	Alina Ishikawa	MBA
3 rd	Hye Young Oh	MBA	4 th	Jimin Ryu	SCS
4 th	Sang Hua Lee	MBA	5 th	Daruhah Moses	MCS
5 th	Anastasia Schweiger	GCA	Original oratory:		
Humorous Interpretation:			1 st	Eunice Park	MBA
1 st	Emily Dotts	CCA	2 nd	Ju Hui Hwang	MBA
2 nd	Terence Ho	GCA	3 rd	Sang Hyuk Park	MBA
3 rd	Zalika Joyner	Chacha	4 th	Hye Young Oh	MBA
4 th	Ju Hui Hwang	MBA	5 th	Sang Hua Lee	MBA
5 th	Chao Wou Hwang	MBA	Duo interpretation:		
Dramatic Interpretation:			1 st	Kahra Atalig/Anastasia Schweiger	GCA
			2 nd	Na Eun Kim/Young Eun Lee	MBA
			3 rd	Chaa Wou Hwang/Se Young Hwang	MBA
			4 th	Emily Dotts/Ji Hoon Choi	CCA
			5 th	Crystalline Cristobal/Jenica Smithee	GCA

Youth issues in pictures

The American Literature and English classes of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at the Saipan International School were recently given an assignment to take pictures of things and issues that concern them. Besides the pictures, the classes were supposed to write captions, explaining why they are con-

cerned about these issues. The *Saipan Tribune* has agreed to feature some of those pictures, so that our readers will know that the islands’ youth are just as anxious as the rest of us about what is happening to the Commonwealth. A new batch of pictures will be published next Wednesday.



ABANDONED CAR

Amy Arenovski, an eighth-grader at the Saipan International School under the American Literature class of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett, took this picture of an abandoned vehicle, expressing her concern for this blight that are constant eyesores in the landscape of Saipan.

AMY ARENOVSKI



LITTERING

This picture, taken by Angel Li, an eighth-grader at the Saipan International School, highlights her concerns about littering. She wrote, “ Trash is one of the major problems on Saipan. We should put them in a covered trash can so the germs from the trash will be not be spread by the wind. Also, people like to burn trash, which pollutes the air.”

ANGEL LI



DEFORESTATION

This metal fence is blocking wildlife from a construction site. This picture was taken by Nathan Nutting, an 8th-grader under the class of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at the Saipan International School. According to Nutting, “deforestation is a problem because it kills animals in the process and animals lose homes. People will cut forests down for homes and buildings.”

NATHAN NUTTING

IT’S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD

A stray dog eats a road kill—a dead puppy—on an overgrown street in Tanapag. The Saipan Mayor’s Office has recently been assigned the task of capturing stray animals and cleaning up road kill. Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela reported that due to lack of funding, his office is unable to complete this task. This picture, taken by Emma McCullough-Sterns, a 10th grader at the Saipan International School for the English class under Katharyn Tuten-Puckett, was taken Monday, March 9, 2009.

EMMA MCCULLOUGH-STERNS



EMPTY BUILDINGS

A lot of houses and buildings on Saipan are for rent but they remain vacant. This house is near the road, has a good site, and the price was even lowered, but the place is still empty. This picture was taken by Sixu Wang, a 10th grader at Saipan International School for the American Literature class of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett.

SIXU WANG

Life & Style

Poet Sylvia Plath's son commits suicide in Alaska

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

When Nicholas Hughes was in his early 20s, his father, poet Ted Hughes, advised him on the importance of living bravely.

"The only calibration that counts is how much heart people invest, how much they ignore their fears of being hurt or caught out or humiliated," Hughes wrote to his son, who committed suicide at 47 last week at his home in Fairbanks, Alaska, 46 years after Nicholas' mother, poet Sylvia Plath, killed herself.

"And the only thing people regret is that they didn't live boldly enough, that they didn't invest enough heart, didn't love enough. Nothing else really counts at all."

From the time that Plath died, in 1963, Ted Hughes had tried to protect and strengthen their children, Frieda and Nicholas, from their mother's fate and fame. He burned the last volume of his wife's journals, a decision strongly criticized by scholars and fans, and waited years to tell his children the full details of Plath's suicide.

And only near the end of his own life, in his "Birthday Letters" poems, did he share his side of modern poetry's most famous and ill-starred couple.

"What I've been hiding all my life, from myself and everybody else, is not terrible at all. Though you didn't want to read it," he wrote to Nicholas in 1998, months before Ted Hughes died of cancer.

"And the effect on me, Nicky, the sense of gigantic, upheaval transformation in my mind, is quite bewildering. It's as though I have completely new different brains. I can think thoughts I never could think. I have a freedom of imagination I've not felt since 1962. Just to have got rid of all that."

"But I tell you all this," Hughes added, "with a hope that it will let you understand a lot of things. ... Don't laugh it off. In 1963 you were hit even harder than me. But you will have to deal with it, just as I have had to."

Nicholas Hughes, who was not married and had no children, hanged himself March 16, Alaska State Troopers said. He was a man of science, not letters, the only member of his immediate family not to become a poet. A fisheries biologist, he spent nearly a decade on the faculty of the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a professor of fisheries and ocean sciences. He left in December 2006, according to the university's Web site.

Hughes' older sister, poet Frieda Hughes, issued a statement through the Times of London, expressing her "profound sorrow" and saying that he "had been battling depression for some time."

"His lifelong fascination with fish and fishing was a strong and shared bond with our father," Frieda Hughes wrote. "He was a loving brother, a

loyal friend to those who knew him and, despite the vagaries that life threw at him, he maintained an almost childlike innocence and enthusiasm for the next project or plan."

Nicholas Hughes graduated from the University of Oxford in 1984, and received a master's of arts degree from Oxford, in 1990, before emigrating to the United States and getting a doctorate from the University of Alaska.

Hughes' family history was an "urban legend" that was passed around from student to student. But it was a subject no one discussed with him, said Kevin Schaberg, a former student in a fish ecology class taught by Hughes.

"It was obviously something he did not want to talk about," said Schaberg, who added that he knew Hughes struggled with depression. "I never brought it (his family) up. He never brought it up."

Mark Wipfli, an aquatic ecologist at the University of Alaska and a good friend of Hughes, said that Hughes never spoke of his mother to him, but he talked warmly of his father, who sometimes visited Hughes in Alaska. Even though he had left the university, Hughes remained active in research and was a key scientist in an ongoing study of king salmon.

"I would really like to see him recognized in his own right, not just as the son of two famous people," Wipfli said. "In his own right, he was an incredibly wonderful person."

Hughes not only taught about fish, he also enjoyed fishing and other Alaska pursuits, such as skiing, boating and hunting moose and caribou. What stands out the most for Schaberg, however, is Hughes' vast knowledge of fish, his instant recall of authors, titles and journals on even the most obscure subjects. "Nick was probably one of the smartest guys I've ever met," he said. "When it came to fish, he was a walking bibliography."

Hughes was only 9 months old when his parents separated and was still an infant when his mother died in February 1963, gassing herself in a London flat as her children slept. A few months earlier, she had written of Nicholas: "You are the one/Solid the spaces lean on, envious/You are the baby in the barn."

Not widely known when she died, Plath became a cult figure through the novel "The Bell Jar," which told of a suicidal young woman, and through the prophetic "Ariel" poems—"I shall never grow old," she wrote—she had been working on near the end of her life.

The immediate cause of her breakup with Hughes was his affair with Assia Wevill. Plath's legacy haunted her husband, hounded for years by women who believed he was responsible for her suicide and by a procession of biographers and fans obsessed with the brief, impassioned and tragic marriage between the two poets.



AP

In this undated file photo, American author Sylvia Plath, is shown. Nicholas Hughes, the son of poet Sylvia Plath, hanged himself at his home March 16, 2009, Alaska State Troopers said.

David Letterman marries longtime girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Letterman said he and longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko had a bumpy trip to matrimony last week. During a taping Monday of CBS' "Late Show," Letterman said he and Lasko married March 19 at the Teton County Courthouse in Choteau, Mont., but only after their truck got stuck on a muddy road.

Letterman and Lasko, whose son, Harry, was born in November 2003, didn't take an immediate honeymoon. The late-night host was back at work in New York on Monday to deliver the news—and a few jokes about the marriage.

"Regina and I began dating in February of 1986, and I said, 'Well, things are going pretty good, let's just see what happens in about 10 years,'" Letterman, who turns 62 next month, said at the taping, according to a transcript.

After avoiding marriage for more than two decades, Letterman said, "I secretly felt that men who were married admired me ... like I was the last



AP

In this image originally provided by CBS, David Letterman appears on the "Late Show with David Letterman," in this Oct. 8, 2007, file photo, in New York.

of the real gunslingers, you know what I'm saying?"

The road to the ceremony wasn't smooth, he told the audience. He, Lasko and their son were on their way to the courthouse Thursday when their pickup truck got stuck in the mud.

"So now we think, 'Well, somebody'll come.' No, nobody comes along. Nobody comes along—it's Thursday afternoon; who's coming along? Zorro? No, nobody. So I get out of the truck and I walk 2 miles back to the house into a 50-mile-an-hour wind," Letterman said.

"It's not Beverly Hills, it's Montana, for God's sakes. And the whole way, I'm thinking, 'See, smart ass, see, see, you try to get married, this is what happens,'" he said.

When he returned, Letterman said, Harry asked if they were still going to town and was assured they were.

"And he gets very upset because mom had told him if I wasn't back in an hour, the deal was off," Letterman said.

SXSW ends as buzz grows for bands who impressed

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Not long after the last guitar is strummed, the final beer is downed and East 6th Street clears out, the discussion of which acts made a mark at South By Southwest begins.

For better or worse, that amorphous thing called "buzz" has become a central part of modern music listening. Bands are built up by hype on the Internet and taste-making blogs drive audiences by declaring the next cool thing.

Nowhere is the omnipresence of expected buzz more manifest than at

for 2,100—if a thunderous heavy-metal band can play an "intimate" show.

Kanye West performed twice, once at a showcase for his G.O.O.D. Music record label, the other in a surprise appearance at the party hosted by celebrity blogger Perez Hilton. Big Boi, half of the rap duo OutKast, was eager to talk about his upcoming solo album but less so to perform songs off it, instead playing older material.

Other veteran acts who performed included Echo & the Bunnymen, Devo,

Maria, South Africa's BLK JKS (pronounced "Black Jacks"), New York's experimental Dirty Projectors, the Ohio garage rockers Heartless Bastards and the Canadian acoustic folk trio Rural Alberta Advantage.

But the constant, never sated search for a sonic cause celebre can sometimes feel more concerned with newness than musical enjoyment. Since most music can be instantly heard online, the hype process has sped up.

"I don't take a lot of stock in this buzz thing idea," said Bob Boilen, of NPR's "All Songs Considered" and host of the Decemberists' broadcast.

"I understand that everyone wants to see Ida Maria, and I do too," said Boilen. "But I like doing the blindfold thing: listening to a bunch of music, not knowing who they are."

The buzz cycle has become familiar to music fans after watching it play out for indie bands like Vampire Weekend, Cold War Kids and Arctic Monkeys.

At times, the attention comes like a tidal wave. Last year, Vampire Weekend frontman Ezra Koenig said in an interview that they finally were graduated from being a "normal band" and that they had "paid their dues" in buzz.

At SXSW, Grizzly Bear singer Edward Droste felt sympathy for young bands celebrated too enthusiastically too soon. The climb for Grizzly Bear, the band says, has been gradual and manageable.

"It can be really detrimental to explode too quickly," said Droste. "For me, personally, the music that I like the most is the stuff that takes a little time to grow with and has a bit of longevity. There are albums that I've jumped on and been like 'Yeah!' and then three months later, I've been like, 'Nah.' It's sort of the nature of the beast."

But there can be upside to buzz, which is essentially a multiplied version of someone recommending a band to check out. And in the current climate of the music business, any mode of attracting listeners is to be embraced.



AP

The Pains of Being Pure Of Heart, with guitarist Kip Berman, play inside a record store during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

SXSW, the annual music conference and festival that concluded its 23rd annual event early Sunday after four nights of revelry.

With some 1,900 acts packed into just about every venue in downtown Austin (including a church and an old Safeway supermarket), a pack mentality in the audience can set in as attendees—mostly industry reps and press—flock together looking for new sound from established acts and first-timers.

Among the established acts was Metallica, promoting a new videogame, who played a semisecret, intimate show

P.J. Harvey, Primal Scream and the reunited Jane's Addiction. And some of the most popular shows were those by indie heavyweights like the Hold Steady, M. Ward, Andrew Bird, Grizzly Bear and the Decemberists, who performed their new operatic concept album "The Hazards of Love" in full, webcasting it for NPR.org.

But much of the energy of SXSW was in discovery.

Among the bands that drew fresh excitement were: indie pop outfit The Pains of Being Pure At Heart, the show-stopping Norwegian rocker Ida

Paul Rudd, the heartthrob who'd rather be funny

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Let's imagine a convention of Paul Rudd fans:

There's lots of spittle, spraying from the mouths of "The 40 Year Old Virgin" fans who jab at each other and say, "You know how I know you're gay?" then laugh hysterically. There's a bunch of young women who secretly watch "Clueless" whenever it's on TBS, which is at least twice a week. Guys wearing Sex Panther cologne are here, plus "Reno 911" acolytes, and that weird co-worker who owns all the "Friends" DVDs and talks as if it's still on the air. Throw in the Shakespeare buffs and the one person who remembers that Rudd was in "Cider House Rules," and suddenly everybody you know is present.

If we were to give this convention a keynote address, here is what it would be:

"Character Actor With a Leading Man's Face: How the Erstwhile Next Big Thing Became a Funny Supporting Thing, Then Finally a Funny Big Thing."

"In college I had this friend who would come up with certain terminology and everyone would use it. ... Everyone kind of spoke Dave Dorothy language," says Rudd, 39. He's eating brunch at a diner in New York's Meatpacking District. He lives a few blocks from here with his wife and 3-year-old son, and today he's dressed like your husband dresses on the days when he just pulls a wrinkled sweater off the floor. This feels appropriate since Rudd is the guy every single woman of a certain age wants to marry.

"Like *imbe-*." Back to the terminology. The "imbe-" prefix, Rudd explains, could be added to any noun to imply that the thing looked dumb. "A grown man wearing his socks pulled up to his shorts, that became 'imbe-socks.' ... I would adopt (the lingo) when I was around them. *Oh look. Imbe-hair. Ha ha ha!*"

This, essentially, describes the plot of his latest project, "I Love You, Man," which comes out Friday.

Outwardly, it's about real estate agent Peter (Rudd), who gets engaged (to Rashida Jones), then realizes he doesn't have any guy friends to serve as best man. Let the man-dates and bromance commence. Throw in Lou Ferrigno.

But the movie is really about the difficulty of making new friends, especially for nice guys who are deeply uncomfortable calling beers "brews-kis" but who understand that mastering such terminology is necessary to cultivating straight male relationships. In "I Love You, Man," Rudd is this awkward guy. Jason Segel ("Knocked Up," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall") is his boorish platonic soul mate.

The plot all fits into a genre that—thanks to the current Judd Apatowian man-toddler craze—some clever critics have described as "kidult." This word makes Rudd put down his fork and snort.

"Kidult. It sounds like something my grandmother would have made for Purim. Would you please pass the kidult?" Then he laughs at his own joke. Then he mocks himself for laughing at his own joke. Then he laughs again, collapsing helplessly into the vinyl booth.

Rudd's self-effacing self-awareness



Actor Paul Rudd arrives at the premiere of the animated feature film "Monsters vs. Aliens" in Universal City, Calif. on Sunday, March 22, 2009.

is what makes "I Love You, Man" work—what makes it, despite a few dog poo jokes, actually feel smart. And more important, true to life.

"The character of Peter has to be self-aware," says director John Hamburg. "If he's not aware of the fact that he gets nervous around other men, then he's just a loser. ... That aspect of Paul, that *you* know *he* knows what he's doing, that's what makes it real."

In one scene, Rudd's character tries to "snake a beer" from Segel, only to have his request come out, mangled, as "snake a brame." Rudd's *Floor, please swallow me now* expression afterward is hilarious.

He also starred in November's "Role Models," as a cranky salesman assigned to mentor an uber-geek. Before that, you'd most often find Rudd in the background. He hammed it up as a surf instructor behind Segel in "Sarah Marshall," as a desperate husband behind Seth Rogen in "Knocked Up," and in countless other slacker-y films made by the incestuous comedic crew. "Jason Segel says they should call us the Fat Pack," Rudd says.

He's clearly delighted by the phrase, but Rudd isn't tubby, schlubby or any other sad-sack adjective that could describe Segel, Rogen and gang. He's got dark, wavy hair and a Colgate smile and downright chiseled bone structure. He's handsome, which made watching

him in any Fat Pack ensemble comedy confusing: What's the cute guy *doing* in there? Shouldn't he be out front?

If he'd succumbed to the fortune of his own good looks, he might have reached leading-man status long ago—just not the one he wanted.

"Paul is a good-looking guy," says Hamburg. "I'm man enough to say that. But I think that for the early part of his career, people didn't realize he was also really funny."

Casting directors didn't realize that. They saw cheekbones, they thought "love interest."

Rudd's first big break came in 1995, a few years after he moved to New York (he'd grown up in a Kansas City suburb and studied theater at the University of Kansas), when he was cast as Alicia Silverstone's perfectly sweet ex-stepbrother in "Clueless."

After that he was Leonardo DiCaprio's perfectly sweet competition in "Romeo (plus) Juliet" and Jennifer Aniston's perfectly sweet gay love interest in "The Object of My Affection." On the release of that movie, one gaga reviewer declared that Rudd "could now claim universal pin-up status."

"That's definitely the direction that the Hollywood machine was trying to push him in," says writer and director David Wain, who has worked with Rudd on several projects, including "Role Models." "But he's always been

this hyper-smart, hysterically funny guy. He's like Paul Newman, but then he's got this absurdist sense of humor."

Still, the machine might have succeeded, except that Rudd got his second big break: In 2000 he happened to

read Wain's wacky, odd comedy script "Wet Hot American Summer."

"It felt like a truer representation of myself than most of the things I had auditioned for," says Rudd, who ended up playing a sleazy, un-sweet camp counselor. Although the film was out for "maybe two weeks in two theaters," says Rudd, "I was so excited to be in that movie because I knew it was different than all the stuff I'd done."

He worked his way into Judd Apatow's circle—"I think Paul may have stalked me," Apatow writes via e-mail—and by 2004 he'd all but erased his romcom past. As many fans began to recognize him as the mustachioed "Anchorman" sidekick as they did a romantic hero.

Not everyone immediately understood the switch from leading guy to offbeat character actor. When "Clueless" director Amy Heckerling, who also directed Rudd in 2007's "I Could Never Be Your Woman," learned he'd be second banana in "Knocked Up," "I said: 'No, Paul, you've got to be the lead! You're the guy!' But I'm not his mother and I'm not his agent," remembers Heckerling.

Of course, as Heckerling now says, "Knocked Up" turned out to be a wise career move, becoming the crude zeitgeist of summer 2007.

Now Rudd's career has come nearly full circle, back to the land of the leading man. But in his most recent movies, he gets to be the dashing guy who gets the girl, but he also gets to be the comic relief. Or, as Hamburg says, "He can be the center of a movie but not be boring in it."

Rudd doesn't take his changing status for granted. "I certainly feel like I have options and opportunities that I never had before," says Rudd. "But I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop."

Meanwhile, he has ascended to what many would consider the pinnacle of actorly fame: He graces the cover of the latest Vanity Fair, which celebrates the current kings of comedy.

"Clueless" fans rejoice: He's got stubble and expensive lighting, and his face looks dreamy.

Comic fans rejoice: He is wearing a barrel.

Williams recovering in Ohio after heart surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Williams was recovering at the Cleveland Clinic after heart surgery that his doctors deemed successful, his publicists said Monday. The 57-year-old actor had an operation to replace an aortic valve on March 13, publicists Mara Buxbaum and Chris Kanarick said. He was expected to make a complete recovery in the next eight weeks.

"His heart is strong and he will have normal heart function in the coming weeks with no limitations on what he'll be able to do," said Dr. A. Marc Gillinov, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic. "A couple of hours after surgery, he was entertaining the medical team and making us all laugh."

Williams was initially treated at the University of Miami Hospital before being transferred to Cleveland. He had been in Florida earlier this month

when he was forced to cancel the remainder of his one-man comedy show, "Weapons of Self-Destruction," after experiencing shortness of breath.

Williams, whose sold-out, multi-city tour is expected to resume in the fall, thanked staff at both hospitals.

"I can't thank them enough for their kindness and dedication while I was in their care," he said in a statement. "I must also thank all the people who have expressed their love and concern for me. I have been deeply touched by their support."

Williams being Williams, he couldn't resist a comic aside.

"I got some great new material for the tour and can't wait to get back on the road," he said. "I'm thinking the next leg of the tour will be 'Weapons of Self-Destruction and Reconstruction'!"



Williams

Lauer absent from 'Today' after bicycle flip

NEW YORK (AP)—A flip off his bicycle took "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer off the air Monday with a shoulder injury.

Lauer, 51, was riding his bicycle on Long Island this weekend when a deer jumped into his path. He flipped over the bike's handlebars and was slightly hurt, NBC said.

"Today" show publicist Megan Kopf said Lauer, who was wearing a helmet, separated his shoulder and was scheduled to

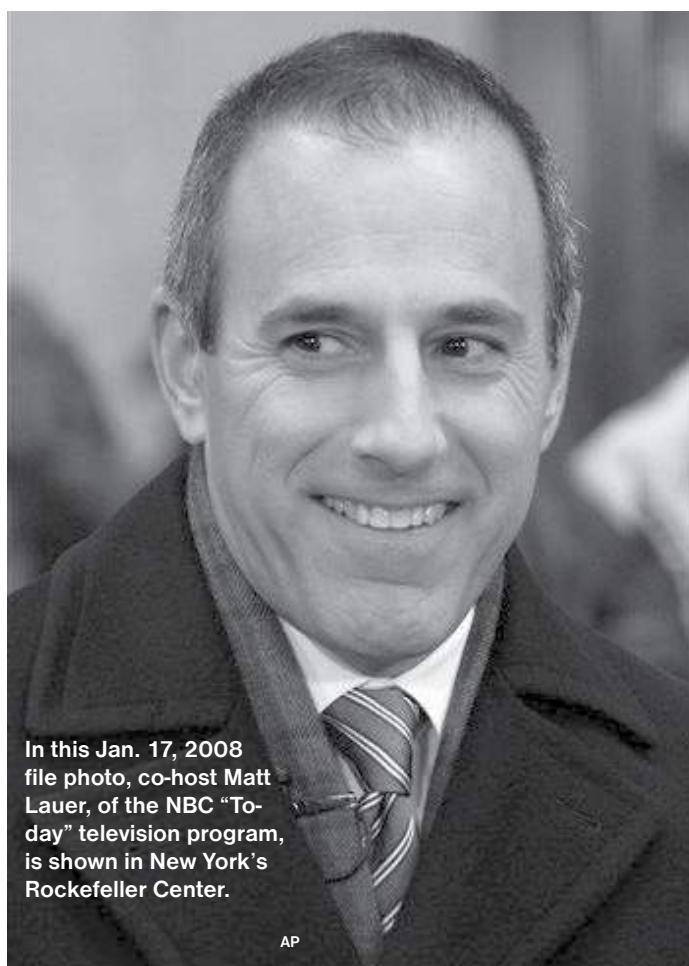
have surgery Monday.

"He's doing well, and we hope to have him back on 'Today' later this week," Kopf said in an e-mail.

Lauer's broadcast partner, Meredith Vieira, joked on the air that Lauer thinks the deer was hired by the competition.

"Matt's banged up with a displaced shoulder, it popped out," she said. "So hopefully he'll be on the mend soon."

Lester Holt filled in as Vieira's co-host Monday.



In this Jan. 17, 2008 file photo, co-host Matt Lauer, of the NBC "Today" television program, is shown in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Anne Hathaway will play Garland on stage, screen



ald Clarke's 2000 biography. It's titled "Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland."

The announcement was made Monday by Weinstein Co. boss Harvey Weinstein.

The 26-year-old actress showed off her song-and-dance skills at last month's Academy Awards, where she sang with host Hugh Jackman.

Hathaway was nominated for an Oscar for her lead role in last year's "Rachel Getting Married."

Garland is perhaps best known for starring in 1939's "The Wizard of Oz" and singing its

Oscar-winning ballad "Over the Rainbow." Other career highlights included an Oscar-nominated turn in the 1954 musical remake of "A Star is Born." She died in 1969 at age 47.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anne Hathaway is heading somewhere over the rainbow.

The Oscar-nominated actress is set to play Judy Garland in both film and stage adaptations of Ger-

Drummer Jimmy Chamberlin leaves the Smashing Pumpkins



In this April 23, 2008 file photo, Jimmy Chamberlin, left, and Billy Corgan of rock band The Smashing Pumpkins pose together after a ceremony to induct them into the Hollywood RockWalk in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Drummer Jimmy Chamberlin has left the Smashing Pumpkins.

Chamberlin's departure is posted on the Smashing Pumpkins' Web site. The announcement didn't say why the 44-year-old Chamberlin left the group.

Chamberlin joined the Grammy-winning alternative rock band in 1988 and played on all

of their albums except 1998's "Adore." The band broke up in 2000 and reunited six years later with Chamberlin and frontman Billy Corgan on board.

The announcement says Corgan, who sings and plays guitar, will "continue to write and record as Smashing Pumpkins with plans to head into the studio this spring."

Vanessa Redgrave postpones NYC's Cathedral appearance

NEW YORK (AP)—Vanessa Redgrave has postponed her April 27 appearance at New York's Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine where she was to have performed the stage version of "The Year of Magical Thinking."

In 2007, Redgrave starred on Broadway in Joan Didion's meditation on the deaths of her husband and daughter, and she later performed the one-woman show in London. Redgrave's eldest daughter, Natasha Richardson, died last week from injuries received in a skiing accident in Canada.

Cathedral spokesman Jonathan Korzen says the performance would be rescheduled for a later date.



In this Nov. 13, 2008 file photo, Vanessa Redgrave arrives at the premiere of the film "Milk" at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Producer-director Brett Ratner takes on publishing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Producer-director Brett Ratner is adding publisher to his list of credits.

The Hollywood hyphenate intends to release three books Wednesday through his publishing company, Rat Press. The softcover books—on Marlon Brando, Robert Evans and Jim Brown—are the first in a series of planned releases of out-of-print books about filmmakers and filmmaking.

"These are books that I wanted to put out there in the consciousness of film culture and pop culture because they're books that shaped my film education," said Ratner, 40. "Hopefully it will inspire other generations of young people."



Ratner

The first volumes are "Conversations with Marlon Brando" and "Conversations with Robert Evans," both by Lawrence Grobel, and "Jim: The Author's Self-Centered Memoir on the Great Jim Brown" by James Toback. The softcover books sell for \$20 to \$25.

"If I didn't do this, I would take these books and photocopy them and give them to all my friends," Ratner said.

Ratner, whose film credits include "X-Men: The Last Stand" and "Rush Hour 3" and who executive produces TV's "Prison Break," said he always wanted to be in the book business—"not for profit, it's really about a personal passion of mine."

Freshman's late-night tryst angers her chaste roommate

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm a freshman at a Catholic university. I was awakened last night at 3 a.m. because my bunk bed—I'm on top—was shaking. Then I heard my roommate moaning. She had snuck a boy into our dorm room, and they were doing "it."

I am so upset at her disregard for my personal space that I don't know how to talk to her. I'm big on chastity, but I don't want her to think I'm speaking up because I'm a prude. I found it so upsetting that it was difficult to get back to sleep.

My roommate is nice, and we get along well. How do I tell her this behavior is unacceptable? If I tell our resident assistant, she will get in trouble and hate me for it. If I had been forewarned, I would have slept out in the lounge. Please help me.

RELUCTANT WITNESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR RELUCTANT WITNESS: Silence implies approval. It is important that you talk to your roommate NOW because if you don't, it is sure to happen again. All you have to say is that when you were awakened, at first you were frightened. Then, when you realized what was going on, it made you extremely uncomfortable, and in the future you would prefer she make other arrangements for "that kind of thing."

It's the truth, you are within your rights to draw the line and you won't come off looking like a prude. What they did was out of line.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Dirk," and I have been dating nearly three years, and we recently moved in together. Before we met, he briefly dated a woman I'll call "Lola," who has bipolar disorder.

Although she was the one to end the relationship, Lola became jealous when she heard Dirk was dating me and started following us around. Dirk is a musician, and Lola would dance provocatively at his shows, hang on him and hug him, and we would sometimes be kept up all night by her calls and texts.

Dirk has told Lola many times that she's crossing the line. Eventually, she began seeing someone else and stopped tormenting us. But now that she has learned we're living together, her crazy behavior has started up again.

I went to pick Dirk up from his show last night and heard that Lola had told half the people in the club that he had "always loved her," that they were "soul mates," and that she would be going home with him! While I don't doubt the stability of my relationship with Dirk, I find Lola's behavior irritating and blatantly disrespectful.

Dirk tells me any confrontation would be counterproductive, and that the woman would be "overjoyed" to find out she's causing me distress. He thinks she's so unstable she might react violently. I'm fed up. What should we do?

HAD IT IN MANHATTAN

DEAR HAD IT: You have my sympathy. This is the downside of having a relationship with a charismatic performer. Although Lola's behavior is irritating, I'm casting my vote with your boyfriend. If you show her she is getting to you, her antics will only increase.

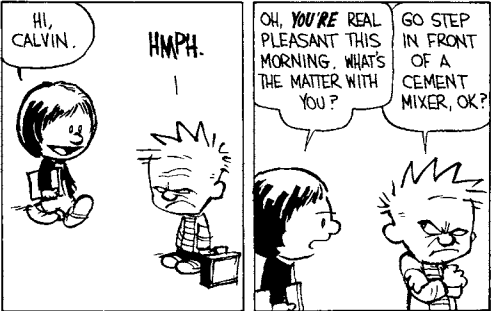
It won't take long for the regulars at the club to recognize her for the poor, deluded fan she is. The other club-goers really don't count. However, should Lola's actions escalate to violence, the police should be called and a restraining order taken out.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

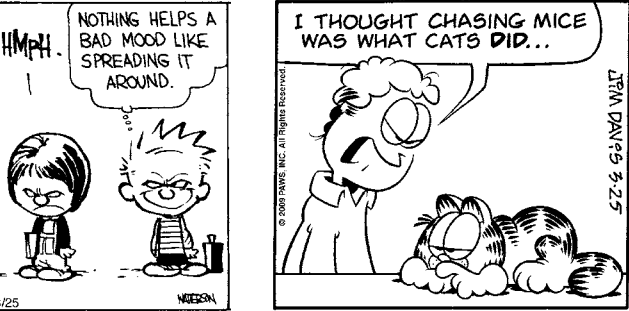
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby - Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



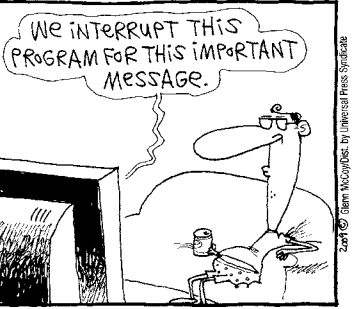
Adam@home



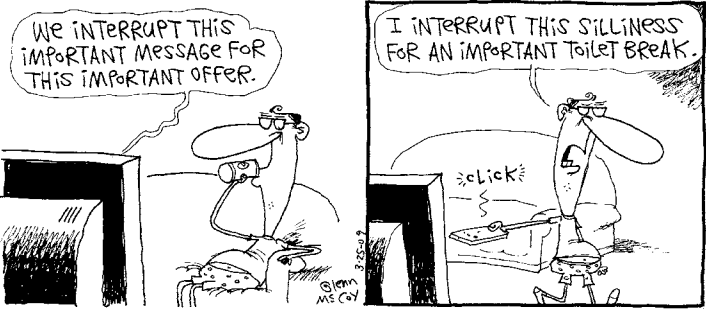
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Tackles weeds 5 Miss Piggy's pronoun 8 Rough journey 12 Piedmont wine region 13 Curved line 14 Trumpet 15 St. Patrick's Day emblem 17 Dermatology subject 18 McCain's running mate 19 North-erner 21 Settle down 24 Kitten's call 25 Judicial raiment 28 Creme-filled cookie 30 Shade source 33 Actress Mendes 34 Dress 35 Meadow 36 Quarter-back Marino

DOWN 1 Padlocked fastener 2 Job-safety org. 3 And others (Lat.) 4 "Hard as nails," for one 5 Chinese chairman 6 Killer whale 7 Gross 8 Scottish feudal lord 9 "Saturday Evening Post" artist 10 Sea eagle 11 Last word of "Oh! Susanna" 16 Genetic abbr. 20 Wild and crazy 22 Sushi wrapper 23 Whimsically witty 25 Roulette bet 26 Eggs 27 Wad 29 Outside (Pref.) 31 Writer Buscaglia 32 Treasure seeker's aid 34 Envelope feature 38 Early March baby 40 Marks' replacements 42 Western st. 43 Church area 44 Seethe 45 Small combo 47 Corridor 48 "Born Free" lioness 49 Passel 52 Scepter topper 53 Main-lander's memento

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sher-yl Swoopes, 38; Sarah Jessica Parker, 44; Elton John, 62; Aretha Franklin, 67

Happy Birthday: Don't get all worked up over nothing. It's the thinking Aries who will win this year and have others marveling at the way you can magically make things happen. Your uniqueness will not go unnoticed. Your ability to drum up support and enthusiasm will help you finish what you start. Your numbers are 8, 16, 19, 24, 28, 35, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to get rid of anything or anyone holding you back. Organization will be required to fulfill responsibilities that you promised you would take care of. A new beginning will be easier once you clear the way. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your skills to work for you. Offer services that you have perfected over the years. Stick to your budget and do not give in to sales that promise you the impossible. It's amazing what you can do when backed against a wall. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be disappointed if you bank everything you've got on a plan that isn't foolproof. Promises made will be broken due to circumstances beyond your control. Be clear about what you have to offer. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Separate business from pleasure if you want things to run smoothly. A love relationship may need an adjustment before it's too late to do anything about something you have grown to dislike. Take a serious look at the changes needed at home. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to expand your awareness, try new things and open up possibilities you have never considered. Travel or getting together with people who have similar interests will help you attract love and romance as well. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be tempted to spend your cash on something you really don't need. A tight budget will allow you to save for something you really want or that can help you get ahead in the future. Avoid anything that threatens your long-term security. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to network with as many people as possible about your plans for the future. Someone will take an interest and help you find the perfect outlet for your ideas. You can take something you really enjoy doing and turn it into a viable commodity. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have more to offer than you realize, so put your talents to work for you. A change of plans will be your advantage. An honest, emotional attempt to get your way will work, so share your feelings. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Before you move forward with anyone or with a deal you are involved in, make sure everyone—including yourself—is there for the right reasons. It will be easy for something to go wrong and anger to set in. Don't send the wrong signal. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A personal conflict will leave you won-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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dering if you should make some changes in your life. A different job or project will help give you some ideas about where to head, spiritually and vocationally. Don't give in to peer pressure. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can't say yes to everyone and manage to get the things you have to get done finished. Make suggestions but don't give up cash or precious time. Erratic behavior must be treated accordingly, so don't give in. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be unpredictable and impulsive in your actions and this can cost you both emotionally and financially. It is important for you to trust in someone whom you respect. Keep busy and avoid arguments. ***

Birthday Baby: You are into everything and always curious. You are compelling, passionate and will never give in or give up.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2	9	3					7	8
		3	4	7			2	1	
				1		5			
				1	9	3			
		1					9		
4	9		5					3	
7								5	
	4	2	9					6	
			7	5				2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	1	4	3	7	5	2	6
5	4	6	1	2	9	8	3	7
2	3	7	8	5	6	9	4	1
6	8	3	5	7	4	1	9	2
1	7	4	2	9	3	6	5	8
9	2	5	6	8	1	3	7	4
4	6	9	3	1	2	7	8	5
7	1	8	9	4	5	2	6	3
3	5	2	7	6	8	4	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/24

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOCKEY MOMS Solution: 7 letters

Y R A R E N A E S E H C A O C
S L E Z S E T A D H A N D I H
T O I E Z P A R E N T S F R I
R A C M T I P L A N S F E E L
O E S I A N P Y B G A T Z T D
P D S K A F U N D R A I S E R
S E M I U L A L T W N M U A E
C G R L R V R N O A I G E M N
H A O K I O E S G V A N R S S
O N F N O M N R U E T I T J C
O A I D P O O I L P N I E E O
L M N I S A L L A K P R M A R
A I U S K A T E S R S O N E E
G Q E P Y T O E R E T S R C S
E L C I H E V E Y S K C I T S

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Arena, Children, Coaches, Dates, Early, Equipment, Family, Fundraiser, Games, Hand, Helpful, Indoor, Jersey, League, Lessons, Look, Managed, Minivan, Organize, Parents, Pizza, Plans, Rinks, Rise, School Age, Scores, Skates, Social, Sports, Stereotype, Sticks, Support, Task, Teams, Times, Traffic, Train, Uniforms, Vehicle, Volunteer, Water, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Celebrated

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STUMPED?

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CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution:
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MUSICAL

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Under arrest.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FERRIS BEEF ENCORE

Find today's solution in this section



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW09-RFP-012

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 10/ROUTE 100 EMERGENCY REPAIRS, ROTA FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. CM-NH-1000 (005) ER AND CM-NH-0100 (002) ER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Route 10/Route 100 Emergency Repairs (ROTA)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 18, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on April 3, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 17, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW09-RFP-012". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 22, 2009**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 22, 2009** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@opticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 22, 2009** and must be received no later than **April 31, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE) CIVIL
ESTATE OF) ACTION
MARIA PIERE MALUS,) NO.
Deceased.) 99-769D

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION
DATE: APRIL 20, 2009
TIME: 1:30 PM
JUDGE: NAJARA

TO: GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY CREDITORS and THE HEIRS:
1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AND YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that JEFFREY R. KAIPAT of Saipan, Mariana Islands and in his capacity as the Administrator of the foregoing Estate of MARIA PIERE MALUS, Deceased, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for a Decree of Final Distribution in said estate. The Attorney of Record is Robert Tenorio Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution by Jeffrey R. Kaipat, as Administrator, has been set for a hearing on **20th of April, 2009 at the hour of 1:30 p.m.** Courtroom 202A of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. A copy of said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court. If you have any objection to said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution, you are requested to notify the Clerk of Court and the Law Office of Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated. You may also appear at the same time and date set for the hearing on the Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution to present your objection to the above-entitled Honorable Court. **SO ORDERED** this 17th day of February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE) CIVIL
ESTATE OF) ACTION
MARIA PIERE MALUS,) NO.
Deceased.) 99-769D

ARONGRONG SANGI, NGARE NGALIIR BWE AI IYEEL AIGHUGHUUL KKEPASAL AISSIS
Raal: 4/20/2009
Loll Atoll: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Naraja

ARONGRONG NGALIIR TOALAP ARAMAS KKA EYOOR YAAR AKAAMWOSCH NGARE TIPTIP AISSIS SANGI:
1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

Arongrong ngngeliir aramas taolap, bew Jeffrey R. Kaipat mekol Saipan Marianas Is, sangi yaal apelughluugh, ngare elo bwe ii eschay school leghelegheiniil matt iye yaal Maria Piere Malus, eghal luungor ngali Superior Court of the Northern Marianas bew ebwe feruu aighughul teglaal ngare kkapasal I yaay matt, Attornil aighughuul matt yeel nga, Robert T. Torres, esq, Bwulasiol olollo, Plata Dr. Whispering Palm, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Bx 503785, Saipan, MP 96950. Arongrong iyaay aighughuul kpasal ngare tititalapal I yaay matt, sangi school leghelegheiniil, Jeffrey R. Kaipat, ebwe bwel te woc **20th rallil April, 2009 loll atoll 1:30 p.m.** me lol imwal awewe iye re makay Rm. 202A Superior Court of the Northern Marianas Is. Ngali alongeer aramas, tadap ikka remengii bwe eyoor yami tipalugh nare aisik, ighal tungoor ngal ghami aubwe totto, Ngare eyoor yami Aiyeegh sangi arongrong, yeel au faingi bwulasiol Clerk of Court be rebwe alisi ghami, Ghiliso, Olomway. **ATTWLIIGH LOLL 17th rallil February, 2009.**

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court

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• 5-Liner	\$35
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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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235-NEWS

Schilling retires after 3 World Series titles



BOSTON (AP)—

From bloody sock to bum shoulder, Curt Schilling rarely left the Red Sox spotlight.

On the field, the husky right-hander pitched through pain to help end the club's 86-year championship drought in 2004—then contributed to another World Series title three years later.

Off the field, the opinionated observer appeared at a congressional hearing on steroids use and campaigned for former President George W. Bush.

From a Thanksgiving dinner in 2003 at his Arizona home where Boston general manager Theo Epstein lured him back to the team that drafted him in 1986 to his retirement Monday, Schilling made his mark in a city of demanding fans.

"I think in the end, we really didn't need to sell it," Epstein said Monday. "The Red Sox were perfect for him, because he likes the big stage, the history of the game. He likes to be the center of attention. It was a good fit."

Schilling enriched that history throughout a career that began with Baltimore in 1988 when he retired the first major league batter he faced, Boston's Wade Boggs, on a ground-ball. He threw his last pitch in 2007, a ball on a full count to Colorado's Todd Helton in Game 2 of Boston's World Series sweep.

A shoulder injury and surgery sidelined him for all of 2008. Then, at age 42, he had to weigh long hours of rehabilitation against the alternatives—spending more time with his wife and four children and focusing on his video game company.

So Schilling, a free agent, scrapped his idea of possibly signing with a contender in the second half of the season.

As successful as he had been in 20 years of pitching for Baltimore, Philadelphia, Houston, Arizona and Boston, as competitive and driven as he was on the mound, he had stood on it for the last time.

The \$8 million, one-year contract he signed before the 2008 season was



In this Oct. 25, 2007 file photo, Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling tips his hat as he walks off the field after being taken out of the game during the sixth inning in Game 2 of the baseball World Series against the Colorado Rockies at Fenway Park in Boston.

his last.

"It is with zero regrets that I am making my retirement official," Schilling wrote on his blog. "The things I was allowed to experience, the people I was

able to call friends, teammates, mentors, coaches and opponents, the travel, all of it, are far more than anything I ever thought possible in my lifetime."

Schilling pitched brilliantly in Game

6 of the 2004 AL championship series against the New York Yankees just days after surgery to suture a loose tendon to his right ankle.

The procedure was repeated before another outstanding outing in Game 2 of the World Series sweep of St. Louis as Schilling led Boston to the title in his first season with the Red Sox after he was acquired in a trade a few days after Thanksgiving.

In both games, blood seeped through his sock.

"I think people will definitely remember that, but I would say three championships is a pretty big deal," said Yankees outfielder Johnny Damon, a member of the 2004 Red Sox. "It was a nice career. The writers will think about it in a few years if he's Hall (of Fame) material. He definitely took advantage of what he was given."

The bloody sock from the World Series is now in the Hall of Fame.

"It was freezing, raining, cold as hell, and the guy just had open surgery on his ankle," Boston designated hitter David Ortiz said. "A lot of people come up to me and ask me, 'Hey, he was bleeding for real?' I'll tell you what, man. He showed me a lot of guts. I had a lot of respect for Curt."

Schilling finished with a 216-146 record and a 3.46 ERA. He is tied for 80th on the career wins list and his 3,116 strikeouts ranks 15th overall. He won more than 20 games three times from 2001 through 2004.

All that may not be enough for him to get to the Hall of Fame.

But there's much more on his resume: an 11-2 postseason record, the best of any pitcher with at least 10 decisions, with a 2.23 ERA in 19 career starts. He also was co-MVP of the 2001 World Series with Randy Johnson while in Arizona.

Then there was his focus. Red Sox manager Terry Francona rarely spoke with him the day he pitched.

"The surlier, the better," Francona said. "The few times where he did speak, I remember thinking, 'He's not ready to pitch.'"

Schilling's shoulder injury came to light early in February 2008 when he disclosed on his blog that he and the team disagreed about the best way to treat it. He preferred surgery while the team wanted him to rehabilitate it in hopes of having him pitch that year.

Eventually, both sides agreed that surgery was best and he had it on June 23.

"I talked to him about a week ago," Dr. Craig Morgan, who performed the operation to repair his right biceps tendon and labrum, said Monday. "He said his shoulder felt fine. He's just enjoying being with his family. And the other thing he told me was he wasn't quite sure he wanted to put the time commitment and do four to six hours of exercises every day, which is what's required to come back to pitch."

Schilling was 9-8 with a 3.87 ERA in 2007 when he spent seven weeks on the disabled list with shoulder tendinitis. But he was 3-0 with a 3.00 ERA in the postseason.

"(He) never backed down from any challenge," Epstein said. "One of the things people didn't realize about Schilling is that he was really motivated by fear. Fear of failure."

He wasn't afraid to express his opinions.

In July 2007, he said on HBO's "Costas Now" that the refusals of Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire to address speculation about steroids use are tantamount to admissions. Last September, he said during a radio appearance that former teammate Manny Ramirez "was always kind and nice for the most part, but he'd show up the next day and say, 'I'm through with this team, I want out now.'"

Now Schilling is out—leaving behind a distinguished career and moving on to a life away from the spotlight.

"The game was here long before I was, and will be here long after I am gone," he wrote on his blog. "The only thing I hope I did was never put in question my love for the game, or my passion to be counted on when it mattered most. I did everything I could to win every time I was handed the ball."

Armstrong needs surgery after breaking collarbone

BALTANAS, Spain (AP)—With the road narrowing and cyclists piling up in front of him, Lance Armstrong tumbled hard off his bike. He was left with a broken collarbone that will need surgery and questions about whether he'll be able to contend for an eighth Tour de France title in July. "I'm alive!" he wrote on his Twitter feed. "Broken clavicle (right). Hurts like hell for now. Surgery in a couple of days. Thanks for all the well wishes."

Armstrong will fly back to the United States after being knocked out of the first stage of the Vuelta de Castilla and Leon stage race in Spain.

"The crash has put my upcoming calendar in jeopardy, but the most important thing for me right now is to get back home and rest up and begin my rehab," he said in a statement.

Armstrong is scheduled to compete in the Giro d'Italia from May 9-May 31, then the Tour de France from July 4-26.

"I think for the Giro it's a very big problem," Armstrong said as he left Valladolid University Hospital. "For now, the biggest problem is just the pain."

Armstrong won seven straight Tours from 1999-2005 before retiring. He re-

turned after 3 1/2 years, and at 37 was hoping for another triumphant ride through Paris.

Astana team leader Johan Bruyneel said on his Twitter feed there were no complications in the break, and suggested Armstrong could be riding soon.

"Clean collarbone fracture," Bruyneel said. "Should be fast recovery."

Added Astana spokesman Philippe Maertens: "We are confident he can still race the Tour de France, of course. He will be off the bike, but he can still do condition training."

Armstrong was tossed off his bike during a pileup 12 1/2 miles from the stage's finish Monday. The Texan was grimacing and trying to hold his right arm as he entered an ambulance.

"I've never had this happen before; it's pretty painful," he said. "I feel really miserable."

After falling off his bike, Armstrong sat in the grass beside the road, his right shoulder slumped and his wrist resting on his right thigh. When help arrived, he motioned toward his right shoulder. Armstrong eventually walked to the ambulance and climbed into the back.

Astana teammate Levi Leipheimer described the pileup on his Twitter feed.

"Lance was involved in a huge crash as the road narrowed and became very rough," Leipheimer wrote. "He wasn't far from the front, as he was riding top 10 all day."

Armstrong said the crash was no one's fault.

"Toward the end of the race people started getting excited, a bit of wind, some hills and everybody wanting to be at the front," he said. "A couple of guys crashed in front of me, I crossed my wheel, then I hit them and over the top."

Armstrong was first taken to Rio Carrion hospital in Palencia, then to the hospital in Valladolid. In his statement, Armstrong said he had "been lucky to avoid one of the most common cycling injuries" in his 17-year career.

"It has been a pity to lose Lance because we see him with desire of doing a good preparation in this race," said Alberto Contador, Armstrong's teammate and biggest rival for the role of team leader. "Now only I can support him and wish him to recover as soon as possible in order to take the start on the Giro."

McDaniels sticking by his disgruntled quarterback

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—The Broncos may be listening to offers for disgruntled quarterback Jay Cutler at the NFL owners meetings this week. If coach Josh McDaniels has his way, though, they'll try to work things out to keep Cutler in Denver.

"He's our quarterback. We can't predict the future. He's our quarterback, we want him to be our quarterback, we made that very clear to him and we hope he feels the same way," McDaniels told the NFL Network on Monday, a day before he speaks publicly about the feud for the first time.

McDaniels reiterated that trade talks never reached owner Pat Bowlen's desk, a sign that the issue never got to the serious stage.

"Conversations were had and we've never denied that, but at the same time it's our job to look at every opportunity that we can see if it's something that could improve our football team, and that's what we were doing," McDaniels said.

Their relationship was strained

when McDaniels failed to inform his Pro Bowl quarterback before trying to trade him for Matt Cassel, whom he tutored as New England's offensive coordinator last year. Cutler asked for a trade through his agent after two meetings failed to soothe his hurt feelings.

McDaniels has said he'd rather meet face to face with Cutler again to try to patch their differences before seriously considering dealing the 25-year-old passer who set several franchise records last season.

"I know it's been a very public issue and this is something that I think happens more than people realize. We have a relationship, nobody knows where it stands right now, but it's going to get better," McDaniels said. "It will continue to get better, I believe that. I think it's something that both parties have to work toward a solid resolution. We have a good nucleus of players there that are looking forward to seeing him back at the facility and working with him. It will get to that point at some point in the near future."

Wade gets scoring record as Heat beats Grizzlies



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored 27 points to top his own Miami single-season record, plus added eight assists as the Heat easily beat the Memphis Grizzlies 94-82 on Monday night.

Wade now has 2,064 points this season, 24 more than his previous best, set in the 2005-06 championship season. He got the record on a layup 2 minutes in, part of an 11-0 start that got Miami rolling.

Michael Beasley had 17 points and nine rebounds, Udonis Haslem scored 11 points and Jamaal Magloire finished with 10 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for Miami.

O.J. Mayo scored 21 for the Grizzlies, who started a four-game road trip by losing for the 17th time in 19 games. Rudy Gay was held to eight for Memphis, matching his third-lowest output this season.

Miami stayed 3 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the race for the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference playoff chase. The Heat—who won in Detroit on Sunday and swept a back-to-back for the third time in 16 tries this season—also ensured they would keep at least a 1 1/2-game lead on No. 6 Philadelphia, which played later at Portland.

Playing without starting forward Jermaine O'Neal, who sat out as a precaution with a bruised right hip but is expected to be available Wednesday when the Heat visit Indiana, Miami beat the Grizzlies for the first time in the teams' last four meetings.

Miami took command from the opening tap, scoring on its first five possessions for a quick 11-0 lead that matched its best of the season. The Heat also scored the game's first 11 against Atlanta on Dec. 12, a game they eventually lost.

This one was never in danger of slipping away.

Wade scored 11 points in the first quarter, including a highlight-caliber slam to end the period. He took a bounce pass at the foul line and went over an outstretched Milicic—taken three spots before him in the 2003 draft—for a dunk that put Miami up 30-16.

And Wade struck again, perhaps even more dramatically, at the end of the second quarter.

Mario Chalmers reached his hand behind Memphis' Mike Conley for a steal, flicking the ball to Wade. He took four dribbles, looked up at the clock, leaped from just inside the foul line and dunked with two-tenths of a second remaining for an 56-40 Heat edge going into intermission.

Miami extended the lead to 23 points



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for a shot against Memphis Grizzlies guard O.J. Mayo during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 23, 2009 in Miami.

twice in the third quarter, the second of those coming on a layup by Wade with 1:28 left in the period.

Mayo scored six points in a span of 66 seconds midway through the fourth in an effort to give Memphis some sort of spark, but the Grizzlies didn't get closer than 15 until the final moments.

Suns 118, Nuggets 115

At Phoenix, Grant Hill scored 23 points and Jason Richardson added 22 as the Phoenix Suns extended their season-high winning streak to five games with a victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Hill hit a 12-foot jump shot with 58.6 seconds remaining to give the Suns a 115-113 lead, then made a foul shot with 6.2 seconds left after Denver's Chauncey Billups missed a leaning 8-footer.

Billups, fouled by Hill with 5.4 seconds left to prevent the Nuggets from attempting a tying 3-pointer, made both

free throws to cut the Suns' lead to 116-115. The Nuggets fouled Steve Nash on the inbound play, and he made both foul shots with 3.9 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony led the Nuggets with 29 points, but missed a 3 in the final second.

Kenyon Martin had 18 points, and J.R. Smith added 14 for Denver, which had won five straight.

Hawks 109, Timberwolves 97

At Atlanta, Flip Murray scored a season-best 30 points, and Mike Bibby and Joe Johnson each added 20 as the Atlanta Hawks won their season-high eighth straight home game.

It was Atlanta's eighth win in nine games and the Hawks are 28-7 at Philips Arena. It was the fifth straight loss for the Timberwolves.

The home streak is the longest for Atlanta since Nov. 12, 1996-Feb. 12,

1997, when the Hawks won 20 in row. Atlanta has three tough ones at home coming up starting Wednesday night against the San Antonio Spurs, then Friday night against Boston and Sunday against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Randy Foye led Minnesota with 19 points, while Kevin Love added 17.

Celtics 90, Clippers 77

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics, sparked by an alley-oop dunk from Kevin Garnett, pulled away against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rajon Rondo added 14 points and seven assists, while Kendrick Perkins scored 12 points and had 13 rebounds for Boston (54-18).

Garnett played 18 minutes, hitting all five field-goal attempts while scoring 12 points. He added two rebounds and two assists in his third game back since missing 13 with a sprained right knee.

Zach Randolph led the Clippers with 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Magic 106, Knicks 102

At New York, Dwight Howard had 29 points and 14 rebounds, Hedo Turkoglu led a big fourth-quarter rally, and the Orlando Magic tuned up for a showdown with Boston by beating the New York Knicks.

Turkoglu scored 12 of his 16 points in the final period for the Magic, who lowered their magic number to one to clinch their second straight Southeast Division title. That could come Wednesday, when they host the Celtics in a game where second place in the Eastern Conference will be at stake.

Orlando is a game behind Boston for the No. 2 seed. Courtney Lee scored 22 points on some clutch free throws shooting for the Magic, who have won three in a row, the last two coming in a sweep of a home-and-home series with the Knicks.

Nate Robinson scored 19 for New York, which dropped its fifth straight in a late-season collapse after entertaining hopes of a playoff spot a week ago.

Bulls 101, Wizards 99

At Washington, Ben Gordon scored seven of his 21 points in the final 3 1/2

minutes, and the Chicago Bulls nearly stumbled again in their mediocre march toward the playoffs Monday night before hanging on for a victory over the Washington Wizards.

The Bulls had an 11-point lead whittled to one over the final 6 minutes. Washington's Nick Young made the score 100-99 with a 3-pointer with 3.6 seconds play, but Gordon made one of two free throws with 2.6 seconds remaining. After Gordon missed the second attempt, Antawn Jamison missed a desperation 40-foot shot at the buzzer.

John Salmons added 19 points for the Bulls, who have won four of five to improve to five games under .500, good enough to hold down the final playoff spot in the generously spread out Eastern Conference standings.

Jamison finished with 34 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost five straight.

76ers 104, Trail Blazers 103, OT

At Portland, Ore., Andre Miller had 27 points and 10 rebounds and Thaddeus Young and Andre Iguodala scored 25 points each as the Philadelphia 76ers rallied in overtime to beat the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Sixers (36-33) scored eight consecutive points in overtime, including a rebound basket by Miller with 1:55 left to give Philadelphia a 104-103 lead.

Young hit 10 of 15 shots and scored 17 of his 25 points during the second half. Philadelphia went 35-of-39 from the free-throw line, and hit 51.4 percent (38-of-74) of its shots.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, tied for second place with Utah in the Northwest Division and one game behind first-place Denver.

Possible Saturday return for Wizards' Gilbert Arenas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Agent Zeno's comeback day is Saturday. Definitely. Perhaps. Maybe. Depending on whom you ask.

Gilbert Arenas used a variety of means Monday to indicate that he could make his season debut for the Washington Wizards this weekend against the Detroit Pistons.

"I'm playing Saturday against Detroit," he said in a text message sent to Comcast SportsNet.

Asked if it was really so, the three-time All-Star told a Washington Post reporter at the Verizon Center: "It's only true if I play on Saturday."

Arenas then told The Washington Times by phone that playing Saturday is "the plan" - but isn't set in stone.

Arenas took a fourth approaching - playing coy - when approached by The Associated Press before Monday night's game against the Chicago Bulls: "Everybody's talking about Saturday, man. I don't know how you can talk about Saturday when it ain't here."

Somewhere in the middle was interim coach Ed Tapscott, who could only say that it's a "possibility" that Arenas will play Saturday. Scooped by his own player, Tapscott said he's only had a brief conversation with the mercurial star about the latest developments.

Heat's Wade gives jersey to disabled boy

MIAMI (AP)—When Dwyane Wade visited the home of 8-year-old Michael Stolzenberg, he noticed all sorts of Miami Heat souvenirs around the boy's bedroom. Magazine covers, championship memorabilia, that sort of thing, but no jerseys.

Problem solved.

After the Heat defeated the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night, Wade removed his jersey and gave it to the boy—who nearly died from a bacterial infection last summer, an ailment so devastating that doctors needed to re-

move both of Michael's hands and feet just so he would survive.

"He lights you up, the smiles on his face. He seems so happy," Wade said. "Everything that's happened to him is unfortunate. But he lights you up. He makes you feel good. He's a kid I've had a relationship with for a while. I've been to his room. He has everything already in there, and I wanted to add to it."

Michael was bitten by a bug on July 22, 2008, and went into shock two hours later. The next day, doctors warned his family that he would likely

die. He wound up spending more than seven weeks in the intensive-care unit of a South Florida hospital. He was the quarterback on his youth football team, a lacrosse player, an avid bicycle rider and video-game player.

All that changed, suddenly and without warning.

Eventually, the Heat learned of the boy's situation, and reached out. Michael was shown on the jumbo video screens Monday night during the game, got a standing ovation, then got the biggest thrill of all—the jersey.

"Hopefully we can get that signed and get it on the wall," Wade said.

Wade has often met with sick children during his time with the Heat, usually in private, often not wanting any part of the spotlight.

He didn't want any on Monday, either, even after making a gift so publicly.

"I knew where he was sitting, so when I caught his eye and saw him smile right back, it's great," Wade said. "It didn't matter at that time, the connection that we had, it didn't matter who was looking. It was just us."

CAL

From Page 28

missed Sunday’s roll-off, placed third with his 773 pinfalls. Dannie Robles also totaled 773 pinfalls in four games, but De Guzman won in the tiebreak.

Seventeen male keglers competed for the March title.

Zapanta led the group with an average of 207.25 in four games, showing his best form in Game 4 with his 257 pinfalls. Zapanta also knocked down 200-plus pins in Game 3 with his 219. His lowest output was in Game 1 with 170 pinfalls, but he improved a bit in Game 2 with 183 pinfalls.

Leong’s best showing was in Game 4, too, tallying 214 pinfalls. He had 187, 205,

and 193 in Games 1 to 3 for an average of 199.75. De Guzman averaged 193.25 after his 200-plus pinfalls in Games 2 and 3 (216 and 217), 182 in Game 1 and 154 in Game 4.

In the women’s division, Cal grabbed the Queen of the Lanes tiara from Sunday leader Diane Chong.

Cal collected 757 pinfalls in Monday’s roll-off to eclipse Chong’s 726 and take the March honors. Cal averaged 189.25 pinfalls after a 200-plus output in Game 2 (203), 199 in Game 1, 169 in Game 3 and 186 in Game 4. Chong also had a 200-plus performance with her 202 in Game 4. The erstwhile leader, who also joined the Monday roll-off, but scored only 620 pin-

falls, had 180 in Game 1, 149 in Game 2, and 195 in Game 3 for an average of 181.50.

Adult bowlers can join both roll-offs, but only the higher score is counted.

Emi Williams placed third with her total of 712 pinfalls and average of 178. Williams recorded 190 pinfalls in Game 2 and 3, 169 in Game 1, and 163 in Game 4.

Diane Camacho finished fourth with her 693 pinfalls, followed by Yho Villavicencio (651), Gigi Zapanta (627), Janet Regaspi (622), Cora Muna (602), Linda Yarobwemal (589), Lala Taitano (588), Gloria Omechelang (587), Elena Soll (585), Mhel Regis (580), Carol McKenzie (575), and Lilian Gutierrez (469).



March Queen of the Lanes Ron Cal is flanked by third placer Emi Williams, left, and runner-up Diane Chong.

ICHIRO

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before a boisterous crowd of 54,846 at Dodger Stadium.

The Japanese won the inaugural tournament three years ago, beating Cuba 10-6 in the finals at Petco Park in San Diego.

South Korea had tied the game at 3 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth on Lee Bum-ho’s run-scoring single off Japanese closer Yu Darvish (2-1), who got in trouble by issuing one-out walks to Kim Hyun-soo and Kim Tae-kyun, the 3-4 hitters in the lineup.

Darvish struck out Choo Shin-soo before Lee lined a 1-1 pitch into left field, with pinch runner Lee Jong-wook scoring easily from second.

Seiichi Uchikawa opened the 10th with a single, was sacrificed to second and took third on a single by Akinori Iwamura. After pinch-hitter Munenori Kawasaki popped out, Iwamura took second on defensive interference.

Suzuki managed to foul off a pitch after it had bounced then lined the eighth pitch of the at-

bat from Lim Chang-yong (1-1) to center for his fourth hit. The Mariners’ star entered with a .211 average and three RBIs in eight previous games.

Given the lead, Darvish worked around a leadoff walk to retire South Korea in the bottom of the 10th, setting off a wild celebration when he struck out Lee Jin-young to end the four-hour game.

Japan’s Daisuke Matsuzaka won the MVP award for the second straight time after going 3-0 - the same record he had in the inaugural Classic. The Boston Red Sox right-hander had a 2.45 ERA in 14 2-3 innings over three starts.

The game was the latest in an intense rivalry between the Asian powerhouses—a Far East version of a Yankees-Red Sox matchup. They split four previous games in this 16-team tournament, with Japan’s 6-2 triumph in San Diego last Thursday giving it the Pool 1 title in the second round.

Two days earlier, South Korea won a 4-1 decision, and its players planted the nation’s flag on the mound afterward—not the

first time that’s happened. Suzuki made sure it wouldn’t happen on this night. Suzuki is 6-for-10 in two WBC title games.

South Korea beat Japan twice last summer in the Beijing Olympics en route to the gold medal. The South Koreans also beat Japan twice in the inaugural WBC three years ago before the Japanese won their semifinal matchup. And South Korea beat Japan 3-1 to win the bronze medal in the 2000 Olympics after losing to its rival 8-0 earlier in the Games.

Japan, which outhit South Korea 15-5, blew several scoring opportunities and stranded 14.

Japan took a 3-1 lead with single runs in the seventh and eighth. Yasuyuki Kataoka singled off Jong Hyun-wook to open the seventh, stole second, took third on Suzuki’s bunt single and scored on Hiroyuki Nakajima’s single. Japan had a chance to blow the game open, but after Suzuki took third on Norichika Aoki’s fly to deep right, Kenji Johjima grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Iwamura’s sacrifice fly off Hyunjin Ryu in the eighth gave

the Japanese a two-run lead. The run was charged to Jong, who left after giving up a one-out single to Uchikawa. Atsunori Inaba followed with a ground-rule double before Iwamura’s fly to left.

South Korea got a run back in the bottom of the inning when Lee doubled, took third on an infield out and scored on pinch hitter Lee Dae-ho’s sacrifice fly. Toshiya Sugiuchi relieved after starter Hisashi Iwakuma issued a two-out walk to Park Ki-hyuk, and retired Lee Yong-kyu on a liner to left.

Iwakuma, a 27-year-old right-hander who won 21 games for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles last year, worked 7 2-3 innings, longest outing of the WBC, and allowed just four hits and two runs. He walked two, struck out six and threw 97 pitches - three shy of the maximum.

Japan took a 1-0 lead with an unearned run off Bong Jung-keun in the third on Michihiro Ogasawara’s RBI single, but it could have been a lot worse because Japan loaded the bases with one out before Kenta Kuri-

hara grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Choo tied the game by hitting a 1-1 pitch from Iwakuma over the center field fence to open the fifth for his second homer in as many games. Iwakuma allowed only one baserunner in the first four innings.

Bong allowed six hits and one run in four-plus innings with three walks and one strikeout while using 94 pitches. Jong relieved with runners at first and third and nobody out in the top of the fifth and worked out of trouble, striking out two before catcher Park Kyung-oan threw out Aoki trying to steal second.

Bong, a 28-year-old left-hander who pitched in 48 big-league games with Atlanta and Cincinnati from 2002-04, beat Japan twice earlier in the WBC, giving up six hits and one run in 10 2-3 innings

An elaborate ceremony was held beforehand, with the teams entering the field in single file from their respective bullpens before lining up down the first and third baselines. Among those participating was Sadaharu Oh, the Japanese career

home run leader who managed the Japanese to the WBC title three years ago.

Then after the Japanese, South Korean and United States national anthems were played, the players met in the middle of the diamond to shake hands before and Hall of Fame manager and WBC global ambassador Tom Lasorda and former Dodgers pitching star Fernando Valenzuela, a native of Mexico, threw ceremonial first pitches.

South Korea advanced to the championship game by beating Venezuela 10-2 Saturday night, and Japan earned its berth by topping the U.S. 9-4 Sunday night.

CARPENTER

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Gorilla Warfare MMA “Battle Ready” this Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Carpenter arrived Monday night from Chicago, Illinois, with a perfect 4-0 record, including a win against his fight against Arnold Adams in the International Sport Combat Federation “Bad Intentions” on Dec. 13, 2008 in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. He won by

submission (strikes) at the 3:42 mark of the first round.

A natural boxer, the 250-lb. Carpenter will be fighting for the first time outside the U.S. mainland.

He said he was asked by his coach Alex Trijilo if he wants to come to Saipan and he quickly accepted the invitation.

“I’ll knock him out in the first round,” the 22-year-old Carpenter said when asked of his chances against Fital.

Informed about this, Fital said “tell him to try me.”

Both fighters stand at 6’3” tall.

“I’m ready for anything,” said Fital, who has a 17-1-7 win-draw-loss record tucked under his belt.

His latest win was last March 14 in the All-Island Grappling Submissions Challenge-The Art of War III at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa, where the 225-lb. freestyle jujitsu artist beat Francis Mendiola for the heavyweight gold.

“I just want to wish him good luck. But I think it would be a

great fight,” he said.

Carpenter, who likes to box rather than get his opponent on the ground, said he is basically new to MMA and debuted three years ago at the age of 19.

“I started in boxing,” said Carpenter, who is a member of the Midwest Training Center.

Nice and fun was his first impression about Saipan as he started to acclimatize himself with the island’s tropical weather.

“I’ll do some training at the gym and stay focus for this fight,” he said.

A total of 12 preliminary bouts will be featured before the two semi main events and the main event.

Other featured fights include the bout between Mike “Ogre” Davis and Charleston Aiken and the slam-bang affair between the Philippines’ Edward “Land-slide” Folang and Saipan’s Jerome Denard Norita.

Tickets are now available at the Borderline, The Set, and 670 at \$35 for Red Box, \$35 for general admission, and \$45 for VIP.

CK

From Page 28

later date with the Legends’ Ronald Delos Reyes going for his first of two free throws and with 6:14 left in the third canto.

Delos Reyes used his height and heft advantage to score easy baskets underneath in the first half. He started his scoring spree with a triple in the first period and went on to nail four baskets in the shaded lane.

He then canned three of his four charities to finish the first period with 14 points and give the Legends a four-point lead, 22-18.

Jun Tabora and Manny Lagumbay were the two other Legends player who scored in the first period, while Shirley’s had seven players contributing on offense with Dindo Laxa leading the way with five markers.

Delos Reyes saw limited minutes in the second half, but still came up with six points to keep

the Legends in the driver’s seat, 39-30. Jun Pepito and Henry Manipon added three apiece in the second period to help the Legends’ cause.

Shirley’s was held to 12 points in the second canto with only Joseph Galulu and Edwin Arenas making more than a fieldgoal in that period.

In the opening minutes of the third period, Shirley’s outscored the Legends, 6-4, to move within seven before the game was halted due to rain.

Bong Malasarte, Galulu, and Arenas scored two points each in the third quarter, while Delos Reyes nailed all of the Legends’ four markers in that canto.

Meanwhile, only one semis slot is available in the Open division of the Navy Hill caging. Inchcape, KFC/Taco Bell, and Athlete’s Foot gained the first three semis berths, while pennant champion Dollar Days and IT&E were dueling for the last Final Four seat last night. The semifinal round will be played

this weekend.

KFC Taco Bell took the first semis ticket after downing MBI in the first game last Thursday, 99-92, while Athlete’s Foot pulled off an upset over the second-ranked Docomo in the second match, 104-92, to advance to the next round.

Inchcape secured the third Final Four berth after dominating Rollers, 79-67, in their rain-suspended playoff game that started on Saturday and finished on Sunday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	54	18	.750	-
Philadelphia	36	33	.522	16 1/2
New Jersey	30	40	.429	23
New York	28	42	.400	25
Toronto	25	45	.357	28
Southeast Division				
y-Orlando	52	18	.743	-
Atlanta	42	29	.592	10 1/2
Miami	38	32	.543	14
Charlotte	31	39	.443	21
Washington	16	56	.222	37
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	57	13	.814	-
Detroit	34	35	.493	22 1/2
Chicago	33	38	.465	24 1/2
Milwaukee	31	40	.437	26 1/2
Indiana	29	42	.408	28 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	47	25	.653	-
San Antonio	45	24	.652	1/2
New Orleans	44	25	.638	1 1/2
Dallas	42	28	.600	4
Memphis	17	53	.243	29
Northwest Division				
Denver	45	26	.634	-
Utah	43	26	.623	1
Portland	44	27	.620	1
Oklahoma City	20	50	.286	24 1/2
Minnesota	20	51	.282	25
Pacific Division				
x-L.A. Lakers	55	14	.797	-
Phoenix	39	31	.557	16 1/2
Golden State	25	45	.357	30 1/2
L.A. Clippers	17	54	.239	39
Sacramento	15	55	.214	40 1/2
x-clinched division				
y-clinched playoff spot				
Yesterday's Games				
Chicago 101, Washington 99				
Atlanta 109, Minnesota 97				
Miami 94, Memphis 82				
Orlando 106, New York 102				
Boston 90, L.A. Clippers 77				
Phoenix 118, Denver 115				
Philadelphia 114, Portland 108, OT				
By The Associated Press				

Untalan-Linden tandem wins Leapfrog race

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Champ Untalan lived up to his nickname and along with his partner, Tom Linden, ruled the second Leapfrog race held last Saturday at Paupau Beach.

Untalan arrived first in the bike-run race, timing in about 45 minutes. Linden then pushed their lead after crossing the finish line in 46:15.

In all the duo, covered a distance of 8.5 miles from Paupau Beach via the Kalabera Road-Pale Arnold Road junction and Banzai Cliff and back.

Their time was better than the 47:23 and 47:56 respectively submitted by inaugural winners Butch Sublemente and Ronald Villafria.

The race involved a two-person team using one bicycle, each alternating the bike and run leg portion of the race. Everyone starts the race at the same time.

Youth athletes Matt Mancao and Federico Fernandez, meanwhile, improved on their fifth place finish the last time around by coming in second.

Villafria and Sublemente limped to the finish line third best after failing to duplicate their success in the first Leapfrog race.

Sublemente said their strategy did not sit well with them. "The distance between us was too far," he said.

Lewie Tenorio and Florian Brag teamed up anew and improved their placing from sixth to fourth.

Some 22 regular riders from the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon

Federation joined the race, including all the organizers that left no one to register their times.

A number of them even brought their personal timers like Linden.

"Our strategy was not to go too far from each other," Linden said of their win.

Organizer Mamiko Berger, meanwhile, tapped Untalan on the back and said he chose the right partner in Linden.

But Linden, who did not compete in the first staging, said he was the one who selected the youthful Untalan and not the other way around.

It was those kind of gestures that concluded the day's event.

Most of the riders are gearing up for the upcoming Tagaman Triathlon and XTERRA Saipan Championship next month.



Tom Linden and Champ Untalan pose at the finish line after teaming up to win the second Leapfrog race last Saturday at Paupau Beach.

NMI 670 Enforcers rule Palau goodwill softball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



CNMI's 670 Enforcers dominated the recent 2009 Goodwill Law Enforcement Slow-pitch Softball Tournament hosted by Palau.

The 670 Enforcers won over Belau Force, 19-15, in the championship game held at the Meyuns Softball Field from March 13 to 15.

They also took home the perpetual game trophy after beating Guam Customs, 23-16, and two of their players finished first and second in the homerun derby.

Byron Kaipat had three and Antonio Celis hit two homers for the CNMI.

The other members, who came from various law enforcement divisions in the CNMI, were J.J. Atalig, Dave Cepeda, James Fleming, Antonio Iguel, Perry Iguel, J.J. Laniyo, Poland Masaharu, Ray Rengul, J.P. Sablan, J.J. Salas, Craig Sanchez, Jun Saralu, Bernard Santos, and CNMI Director of Customs Jesus Muna.

The other members of the CNMI delegation were Juanette Atalig, Ms. Kim, Joann Jones, Dorthea Muna, Juanette Sablan, Samantha Salas, and Nadia Saralu.

Three tams from Guam joined the three-day tournament—Guam Customs, Guam DYA, and Guam DOC.

Host Palau entered two teams, Belau Force and Belau COPS.

The 670 Enforcers eliminated all five teams they faced in the tournament.

"The 670 Enforcers are proud and happy to be bringing back home the trophy for the tournament, the first and second place for the homerun derby, and the perpetual game trophy," Samantha Salas said.

The team expressed their appreciation to those who contributed to the success of the tournament.



Members of the CNMI 670 Enforcers celebrate their 19-15 win against Belau Force in the 2009 Goodwill Law Enforcement Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Meyuns Ballpark in Palau.

3 local MMA fighters off to Pacific Xtreme 17

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Three local mixed martial arts fighters are set to see action in Guam this Friday in the Pacific Xtreme Combat 17: Fearless at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan and Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse will be joined by Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar in the Saipan contingent.

Sablan, who holds an impressive 14-win, 4-loss record will be going up against one of Guam's rookie sensations, 18-year-old Robert Wusstig from Team Underworld Extreme, in the 145-lb. class.

Jesse has a 3-0 record in MMA. He will be taking on Underworld Extreme's Eric "E-Dog" Santos, who also sports a

record of 3-0 in the 155-lb. class.

Santos was the gold medalist in the Marianas Open Grappling Championships held in Guam last month.

Rangamar, also known by the moniker Pinchi, will be fighting a competitor from Japan in the 140-lb. division.

"These island warriors were chosen to represent the CNMI against fighters from Guam and Japan by earning their 'Rites to Pass' from their previous outstanding performances in Trench Warz and Rites of Passage held late last year and early this year," said Cuki Alvarez, president and promoter of Trench Tech.

Alvarez said Trench Tech is glad and honored to be able to give these fighting islanders a chance to prove themselves in prestigious events such as the PXC.

He said this could be attributed to the

staging of MMA events like the Rites of Passage and Trench Warz.

"It is to gear up these young up-and-coming MMA athletes for bigger events. We are the link to the Pacific Xtreme Combat and we are happy to continue helping these MMA fighters take their talent to the next level of MMA competition," Alvarez said. "Trench Tech would like to wish our native sons the best of luck. They will be great ambassadors to our island in their respective matches."

Meanwhile, the next Trench Warz event is set on May 23 at the Saipan World Resort and is dubbed Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury. It will be held at the Taga Hall Ballroom with 15 MMA bouts featuring young up-and-coming fighters battling for supremacy in the octagon cage.

Any interested competitors, can contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

Islanders rally past No-Mercy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Islanders met a stiff challenger in No-Mercy before pulling off an 87-72 juiced out win in the "Gorilla Games" in the World Organized Rocball Community League Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Islanders dropped the first two sets before sweeping the last two to keep their reign in "Gorilla Games" for the fourth straight time. The Islanders three previous victims were Evenflow, Soul Rebels, and Seven Kings.

No-Mercy proved to be the Islanders toughest opposition, as the former nailed a 26-20 win in the opening set. No-Mercy boosted its chances for an upset after a 26-16 victory in the second set.

Going into the third set, No-Mercy was ahead by 15 points, 51-36. But the Islanders came back to their senses and notched a 26-6 triumph in the third set to grab the lead, 62-57.

The fourth set was a seesaw battle, as No-Mercy was still determined to

boot out the Islanders.

The third set was tied last at 12-all, until a 12-2 scoring run allowed the Islanders to pull away. The Islanders then served for the game point, but the ball went off the backline.

No-Mercy scored another point to cut the lead to eight, 15-23, before the Islanders got the ball back on a No-Mercy error. The Islanders served, again, and this time they converted an ace to end No-Mercy's upset bid.

Mike Olaitiman led the Islanders with 10 points on three xunks and two kees.

Typhoon Saito paced No-Mercy after also scoring 10 points. He had four aces and a xunk.

"Gorilla Games" will resume next Saturday and Rocball creator James Feger is encouraging interesting teams to challenge the Islanders.

The winning team in the biweekly "Gorilla Games" takes \$50 cash prize. The loser gets to rest for a month before returning to action.

For more information about "Gorilla Games," contact Feger at 288-8722 or at 237-3532.





Untalan-Linden tandem wins Leapfrog race

Champ Untalan lived up to his nickname and along with his partner Tom Linden ruled the second Leapfrog race held last Saturday at Paupau Beach.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Schilling retires after 3 World Series titles

On the field, the husky right-hander pitched through pain to help end the club's 86-year championship drought in 2004—then contributed to another World Series title three years later.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ichiro delivers as Japan wins title



By JOHN NADEL
AP SPORTS WRITER

The team from Japan poses for a team photo as they celebrate on the field after beating South Korea, 5-3, in the final of the World Baseball Classic in Los Angeles, Monday, March 23, 2009.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The World Baseball Classic belongs to Japan. Again. Seattle Mariners star Ichiro Su-



zuki hit a two-out, two-run single in the top of the 10th, and Japan beat reigning Olympic champion South Korea 5-3 Monday night to win its second straight WBC title

See **ICHIRO** on Page 26

Carpenter vows first round KO of Fitial

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Undeclared heavy-weight Ed Carpenter has vowed to knockout Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in the first round of their scheduled three-round main event in

See **CARPENTER** on Page 26

Undeclared heavyweight Ed Carpenter from Chicago, Illinois, poses after a brief interview yesterday at the Gentle Brook Restaurant hours after arriving for Saturday's Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready" at the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

CK Legends ahead in rain-halted Masters game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The third game in the Masters division of the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court was suspended due to rain with the Chalan Kanoa Legends leading Shirley's Coffee Shop,



43-36, in the third quarter. The game will resume on a

See **CK** on Page 26

The Legends' Ed Palma dribbles out of the defense of Shirley's Edwin Arenas during their Masters game in the Navy Hill caging Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Cal, Zapanta rule March roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Raymond Zapanta and Ron Cal claimed the Budweiser March King and Queen of the Lanes titles after Monday's roll-offs at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta's four-game total of 829

pinfalls in the first day of the tournament was unbeaten Monday allowing the former youth kegler to keep the March plum.

Richard Leong, who did not join Sunday's roll-off, participated in the Monday event, but fell 30 pinfalls short with his 799 pinfalls and settled for second place.

Roger De Guzman, who also

See **CAL** on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left runner-up Richard Leong, March King of the Lanes Raymond Zapanta, and third placers Roger De Guzman and Dannie Robles pose during the awards ceremony for the monthly roll-off Monday night at the Saipan Bowling Center.